



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on 11th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit

Al-Sabah Calls for Consolidation

LD2112211790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1944 GMT 21 Dec 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message program"]

[Text] His Highness, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister has made the following statement:

The 11th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Higher Council takes place on the soil of sisterly Qatar during a serious and crucial time of destiny, brought about by the ruling regime in Iraq through its treacherous aggression against a member-state of the council—Kuwait—the occupation of its territories; the destitution of its people and residents; and robbing Kuwait of its wealth, public, and private property.

We are certain that any meeting of the GCC leaders represents a meeting of goodness and blessing that realize the interests of our countries, peoples, and nation. We hope that this meeting yields good results at the level of the ambitions and hopes of the rulers and peoples of the region.

We hail the respectable and fraternal stance of the brotherly GCC states; their leaders, governments, and peoples; and their full solidarity with Kuwait in its confrontation against the aggression of the Iraqi regime which threatens the whole region by its expansionist ambitions and its evil intentions. Experience has proved that this regime does not respect any promise, honor responsibility, nor respect any charter. We therefore hope that the summit will adopt measures to consolidate the ranks and word, and strengthen the current international effort aimed at persuading the Iraqi regime to listen to the Arab and Islamic will and that of the international community, through the implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit and the UN Security Council and withdraw fully and unconditionally from all Kuwaiti territories and enable the return of legitimacy to the State of Kuwait. We pray to God to guide the Council leaders; help them achieve more goodness and prosperity for our countries, peoples, and our Arab and Islamic nation; and assist them in order to put right what is wrong.

Qatari Amir Speaks

NC2212184590 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television
Network in Arabic 1708 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Speech by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani at the opening of the 11th Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, summit at the conference hall of the Sheraton Hotel in Doha—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate: My dear brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques; dear brothers, Your Majesties and Highnesses; Your Excellencies; gentlemen: I am pleased to extend to you our warm brotherly greetings in our country, which takes pride in hosting this historic meeting. This country harbors for you and your fraternal people the profoundest feelings of amity, brotherhood, and appreciation, expressive of our strong ties.

We would have been even happier had His Highness brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the fraternal State of Bahrain, been able to attend and participate, giving us the benefit of his sharp mind and foresightedness at this historic time. We wish his highness a speedy recovery and implore God to grant him continued health.

It pleases me to welcome dear brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, who will enrich our discussions with his sound views.

Brothers, it is very painful and regrettable that we now meet under the difficult circumstances generated by the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait and Iraq's insistence on continuing its occupation of Kuwait, displacing its people and practicing the ugliest methods of torture.

The aggression which befell our land and people in cherished Kuwait is aggression against us all. Kuwait is an independent sovereign state. To us, however, Kuwait is part of our heart and an integral part of our Gulf soil. Over the past few months we have proven through our unity of ranks that we can confront evil and aggression. The Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait will end, God willing, as a result of our steadfast stand as well as the stand of Arab brothers, friendly countries, and the whole world which rejects occupation and invasion and supports international legitimacy.

Dear brothers, our Arab and Islamic resolutions as well as the resolutions of international bodies have collectively demanded the end of the Iraqi aggression through the implementation of these resolutions which call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces and for the restoration of the legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Iraq has failed to respond to these resolutions and insists on its stand of rejecting them. This prompted the UN Security Council to adopt its recent resolution on 29 November, which provides for the use of all means necessary to implement its earlier resolutions regarding the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Out of our conviction of the need to exhaust all means to achieve a peaceful solution, the GCC member states also welcomed the U.S. President's initiative for holding direct talks between the United States and Iraq. Within the framework of this last decision, and in order to achieve its objectives, we hope that Iraq will respond to the peace calls and heed the voice of reason, thus sparing our region and the whole world the dangers of war.

Brothers, the Iraqi invasion has upset all the assumptions and balances we used to take for granted, especially those concerning the firmness of Arab relations, the concept of Gulf and Arab security, and the notion that Arab differences will not overstep certain limits so that our Arab nation's entity and common future will be safeguarded. That aggression has caused cracks in Arab solidarity, set back joint Arab action, and shaken the security and stability of our Gulf and Arab region. This aggression urgently requires us to formulate an unequivocal and integrated strategy of the policies that must be pursued in the future in order to avert the recurrence of such aggression. It also dictates the need to lay down stronger foundations for healthier ties among the Arab countries.

The gravity of the current crisis makes it imperative for us to reconsider and reassess certain aspects of our GCC march. After the events of 2 August, things cannot go on as they had before. Every stage has its own challenges, as well as its own tasks and priorities. We need more than ever before to strengthen the bonds of our integration and lay practical foundations for more comprehensive relations among our countries. There are no differences among the peoples of our countries. We need a new view of our method of work, and we need to establish a more effective security system to enable our GCC to confront challenges in the post-crisis period, to safeguard the region from the dangers of a recurrence of aggression, and to ensure a free and dignified life for the GCC peoples amid the necessary stability so that they can pool their resources and invest their potential in comprehensive development.

We look forward to an Arab world based on mutual dependence, common interests, and fraternal dialogue; an Arab world in which our Arab and Islamic values and the concepts of the modern age prevail. The world around us is establishing a new international order based on accord, cooperation, and the values of peace, freedom, justice, and economic and technological progress. It is absolutely unacceptable for the Arab countries to lag behind in this progress, to keep aloof from these changes, and to remain captive to concepts that have been overtaken by the achievements of the age so that they become a burden on human civilization, relegated to the margin of history.

Esteemed brothers, the ordeal which has befallen us has not made us forget our pan-Arab duties toward our Arab nation's fateful causes, chief among which is the Palestinian cause. The events of the Iraqi aggression have overshadowed this issue and the Palestinian people's heroic intifadah. Nevertheless, it is certain that the ending of this aggression will restore to the Palestinian cause its priority on the agenda of urgent international crises. The international community must find a just solution to this crisis that will allow the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, chiefly their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil. Every possible effort will always be made to contribute with all our capabilities to

attain this primary objective. We consider this the most important of our pan-Arab duties.

With regard to Lebanon, we are following with all due attention the efforts that are being made within the framework of the national accord document to establish legitimacy and restore state control over all Lebanese territory. We fully support the good results these efforts have achieved so far and all future developments which will bolster the process of peace, accord, and stability in this fraternal country.

Your Majesties and Highnesses, with God's blessings we begin the meetings of our 11th session. There are numerous important issues on our agenda. We hope to add to our many past achievements. These new achievements will bolster our march toward attaining our noble objectives of enhancing integration and cohesiveness among our fraternal countries and peoples.

We are confident that the sincere fraternal spirit that always prevails at our meetings, our understanding of our major responsibilities toward our peoples, and the sincerity and seriousness of our efforts will ideally assist us in emerging from our current crisis to the prosperous future to which we aspire.

I ask the Almighty to assist us, guide our steps on the path of goodness, and endow us always with the blessing of solidarity and unity. He is the all-hearing and the fulfiller.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Security Strategy Discussed

NC2312075690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT
23 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 23 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir has disclosed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries are determined to develop a security strategy for the region which will act as the nucleus for a system to deter and avert any future threats.

At a news conference last night with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah following the first closed session of the GCC leaders' summit, the Qatari minister pointed out that these security arrangements had been under consideration for some time and that the current conditions in the region brought them to the forefront.

Minister al-Khatir added that the security arrangements will be developed in light of certain conditions. He explained that the liberation of Kuwait, either peacefully or militarily, will have a bearing on the region's security strategy. He also said that the current developments will play an effective role in shaping future security arrangements.

The Qatari minister was asked whether the GCC will support the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw and whether the council has considered the human losses to be inflicted on the Kuwaiti people if

there is a military attack. Mr. al-Khatir said: No one wants war, and everyone would rather adopt a peaceful approach. As for the issue of 15 January, I believe that it is governed by international resolutions adopted by consensus to give Iraq the opportunity to withdraw. What will happen after 15 January will depend on the circumstances, he said, adding: It is up to Iraq to decide whether or not there will be war. If the Iraqis withdraw, there will be peace; if they do not, only God knows what will happen.

Asked whether regional or foreign powers will be involved in the security arrangements for the region, the Qatari foreign minister said certain ideas are currently under consideration. He noted, however, that the current situation requires serious thought about these security arrangements. He pointed out that the liberation of Kuwait, peacefully or militarily, will reflect on the security formula since this issue will effectively determine the role of any security arrangements.

Al-Khatir was asked whether the GCC plans to sever relations with Iraq. He said this issue depends on several things, primarily the current issue and how it will develop in the future.

The Qatari minister asserted that there are no differences among GCC countries on the security arrangements.

Asked whether Iraq has addressed a message to the 11th GCC summit objecting to Kuwait's participation, al-Khatir denied this, pointing out that the summit has received no messages like this. He asserted in this context that Iraq has no right to object.

On the Lebanese issue, Foreign Minister al-Khatir said it is an Arab cause which the GCC countries spare no effort to support. He said the Lebanese issue is still a GCC priority.

On relations between the GCC and Iran, al-Khatir said Iran is a neighbor and a friend. He said that when GCC ministers have visited Tehran and met with Iranian officials, Iran has shown willingness to cooperate with the GCC. This willingness was also demonstrated during recent meetings between the GCC foreign ministers and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He noted that both Iran and the GCC countries have shown their willingness and desire to reestablish stable relations and promote cooperation between the two sides. He referred in this context to the historical ties of good neighborliness between the two, pointing out that all this is part of the security arrangements the two sides are now considering.

Asked whether there are indications of a possible agreement between the GCC and Iran, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said dialogue and contacts are under way with Iran. He said, however, that there are no indications in these contacts of an agreement between Iran and the GCC. There is only a

dialogue and contacts between the two sides to coordinate trade, security, and political relations he said, adding that contacts have not reached the stage of a formula for security arrangements.

On the Soviet Union's stand on the Gulf crisis, Qatari Foreign Minister al-Khatir said the Soviet Union has adopted a good stand in supporting UN resolutions, including those on the economic embargo. He expressed the GCC countries' appreciation for this stand.

The Qatari foreign minister stated that the GCC leaders will resume their discussions of the summit agenda at 1100 this morning.

Summit Role in Crisis Viewed

LD2312134390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1056 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] If we review the performance of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] in order to find out and assess its weak points, we will discover that even though the PGCC was created nine months after the beginning of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war in order to establish security, economic and political cooperation among its members, the wrong performance of the member countries of the Council, supporting the previous Iraqi aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and adopting an unfriendly policy toward our country, has now led to a new aggression and the occupation of one of its member countries' territory.

The occupation of Kuwait not only placed a question mark against the PGCC's past performance, it also revealed the structural weakness of the PGCC member countries, due to insufficient population and limited military forces, in resisting any military invasion and brought under question its past security system.

In view of the Persian Gulf region's importance and its strategic influence on the international economic and political developments, political and international circles and concerned about the security of the region and, following the defeat of the PGCC's experience vis-a-vis occupation of Kuwait, so far three security recommendations have been put forward for the establishment of a long-term security in the region.

The first recommended system stresses the cooperation of the littoral states of the southern Persian Gulf with the Western powers. In other words, the security of the region should be maintained by countries from outside of the region.

The second recommendation stresses regional cooperation which, apart from the Persian Gulf states, also includes countries such as Egypt, Syria, and Turkey.

The third recommendation suggests that the region's security should be secured from within the region; that is relying on the cooperation of all Persian Gulf littoral states.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in a few hours and the inability of the regional and international allies to stop the complete collapse of Kuwait quickly showed that relying on countries which are outside the Persian Gulf region to provide security is an unsuccessful experience which the heads of the PGCC are unlikely to repeat. Apart from that, the presence of foreign forces in the region, who have vast differences with the people of the region from cultural point of view, poses a danger to the regional governments, and may disturb the stability of those states from within.

King Fahd Addresses Conference

LD2412195890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 24 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, addressed his brothers, their majesties and highnesses the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders, who are meeting at the 11th session of the Higher Council currently convened in Doha. The following is the text:

In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate:

Thanks be to God, and peace and prayers for the messenger of God.

Brothers: your majesties, your highnesses, and heads of state of the GCC.

Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

None of us could have ever thought that we would meet one day under such grim and dark circumstances as we do today, when a state which is a member of our Council—namely beloved Kuwait—is in the grip of a tyrant and under criminal occupation. This did not come from an enemy we might have been weary of, nor an envious enemy whose evil we feared, nor someone harboring rancorous feelings and of whom we were expecting treachery. It came from a man whom we regarded as a brother, friend, and ally—the brother to whom we gave our unbounded affection, the friend to whom we gave our unreserved loyalty, and the ally by whom we stood, with all our near and dear, during his hard times. But brothers, the believers offer thanks to God in good times and bad times, in plenitude and in hardship. They accept with a tranquil soul the will of God and his decision, realizing that He is the wise one and the most learned one. He tests his servants with all sorts of tests. Be sure you shall be tested with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits of your toils. But give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere, who say, when afflicted with calamity: To God we belong, and to Him is our return.

We are bearing the calamity in the same way that the patient ones usually do. [passage omitted]

The ordeal that has fused us together demonstrates the purity of the metal and its essence, and reveals the noble and sound nature of our people. The Gulf in its entirety took a united stand, committed itself to legitimacy, and rallied under the banner of justice, hurrying to the aid of those who had been wronged. The false and misleading propaganda was not able to obscure the righteousness of the cause. [passage omitted]

It is a source of pride to us that brother Muslims have stood beside us in body and spirit, struggling in the arenas of honor and dignity, supporting our legitimate right, and sending their children to stand in the firing line in tight formation with our sons. We were truly like one body: if one part complained, the other parts responded alertly and protectively.

The terrible crisis has confirmed the unity of destiny of our Arab nation and the fact that our Gulf is its first line of defense, its beating heart and strong shield. As soon as perfidy showed its face, the loyal sons of pan-Arabism confronted it, taking part in the defense of the land that had defended the Arabs so many times and contributing to the defense of the areas that had so many times enshrined the glorious Arabs. It remains, however, in this great historic situation that individuals that can be identified have deviated from this consensus. They have failed to distinguish between the wrongdoer and the wronged. Yet even those have begun a sincere review of their own selves and their consciences. Some of them have returned to the camp of right, and we are still waiting for the rest, just as a forgiving father waits for the return of his disobedient son—with a love that transcends reproach and a forgiveness that overlooks disobedience.

Brothers, the occupation of Kuwait has shown that the whole world has not forgotten our past good deeds when we proved to the Third World that we considered its prosperity an indivisible part of our own prosperity, when we then shared with it the bounty that God had bestowed upon us. In so doing, time after time we sacrificed our own urgent interests for the good of future higher interests.

We have always extended the hand of friendship to all. We have never begun an aggression against anyone; we have not accepted the aggression of anyone against anyone else. We have always stood for a new international order that shuns hatred and liberates itself from the curse of wars, concerning itself with relations of true cordiality.

The world did not disappoint us. From the first moments, the international community made its firm and courageous decision to stand up to the face of aggression and give substance to the UN resolutions. This rare international consensus does indeed herald the threshold of a new era of international relations in which

there is no room for tyrants who smash the will of peoples, nor the oppressors who destroy the lives of nations.

Almighty God has said: is there any reward for good other than good? We have, O brothers, lived in all our feelings the splendor of such an eternal Koranic verse when we see that our peoples have been like a bracelet around our wrists, when we see that our Muslim brethren have espoused our jihad to recapture Kuwait as their own jihad, that our Arab brethren are with us in the trenches in gallantry and sagacity, and that the whole world without exception does not recognize the de facto situation—a situation that has been brought about by treacherous weaponry and enforced by an unjust might.

We cannot do anything with such an exuberant faith in us but reiterate our pledge to our peoples that we will be, as we have been in the past, in their service and in the service of their aspirations, putting their prosperity, security, and hopes before anything else. We also reiterate our promise to our Islamic nation that we will vehemently and firmly support all its causes. We also reiterate our promise to our Arab nation that we will cling stubbornly to its just demands and look after its most important cause, the tragic Palestinian cause, as if it were our own cause—particularly now that we have witnessed for the second time the plight of refugees, the agony of the displaced, and the ordeal of the tyrannized.

We also reiterate our pledge to the international community that we will be in the forefront of the new international order; the leaders of justice, wherever it may be; and the supporters of the right, wherever it may be.

O brothers, we are not going to come out of this crisis full of bitterness, frustration, and feelings of hatred; we will come out of it, God willing, more equipped to love, to tolerate, and to be charitable.

What brings joy to our hearts is to see the principles adopted by the heavenly Shari'ah [Islamic law], before they were heard of by any law on earth, affect enormous changes from which our earth has developed and lead the great developments which are now changing the course of history. [passage omitted]

Brothers, God bestowed upon us his blessings when he conferred on us the guide that never goes astray, the captain that never loses its way, the leader that never makes mistakes. It is the graceful jurisprudence of God, as shown by the Holy Book and the noble Sunna [traditions set by the prophet] in eternal, unchangeable principles, that knows the rights of the weak and guarantees a decent life for the poor. [passage omitted]

We meet today while the night of the hateful occupation is still enveloping dear Kuwait, the spears of occupation are fusing its beloved land, and the world is holding its breath night after night, not knowing whether it will wake up to the good news of peace or in the midst of a war.

Brothers, we have not made a decision on peace or war, but we have made a decision on the return of Kuwait—peacefully, if peace is possible, or by war if there is no option but war. We have proven that we are on par with our historic responsibility. We have not been afraid, hesitant, cowardly, or languid. Despite all that, however, we do not want to close the gates of hope nor shut the windows of anticipation. The person we used to consider a brother and friend has seen for himself that when the general alarm was sounded, we rejected the robbery committed by he who threatens destruction. We would like the person whom we used to consider a brother, friend, and ally to know that the curtain has not yet been raised on the scorching war scene, and that even now he can spare himself and his people a horror, the first victims of which will be himself and his people.

We would also like him to know that we have proved to him, when he chose the path of confrontation, that we are capable of making a decision on confrontation, and that as soon as he decides on concord we in turn will be able to make a decision on concord. The decision for peace in historic moments of destiny is very often more courageous than a decision for war. It requires from the decision-maker all his strength, courage, and valor.

Brothers, the horizons around us are shrouded in darkness and by black clouds that cover the sky. It is not time for regret, however, or for sorrow for things that were or for things that should have been. There must be a correct understanding of the existing situation. We must face up to it in a sound and successful way, and draw lessons from what happened so that we may be able to avert such disasters and their destructive consequences.

While the Iraqi regime alone bears the full responsibility for this crisis, with no one else to blame, this does not mean that we are not asking for a reviewal of our situation, a rearrangement of our affairs, or for lessons to be learned from what happened.

In the face of this situation, we are today required to put the Gulf house in order so that it may be able to emerge from this crisis firmer, stronger, and more cohesive. [passage omitted]

During the last few years our countries have achieved quite a lot; every Gulf citizen should be proud of his achievements at all levels, be they economic, social, or cultural. Such achievements, however, have created new aspirations for the citizen; he wants more in all fields, a matter which makes us happier because it is the result of what we have achieved so far.

It is the citizen's right to ask for more, and it is our duty to comply with such aspirations as long as our compliance is carried out in such a way that it protects what has already been achieved, and adds to it so that progress and the march forward might continue.

Thus within this framework we must take all necessary measures to bolster our Council and support it with all means.

It is paramount at the political level that we increase coordination and cooperation in such a way that it reflects the unity of our decision-making and the orientation of our policies. It is paramount at the economic level that we speed up our economic integration and set up a common Gulf market in a bid to attain our sought-after economic unity.

At the security level, and in order to avoid another catastrophe such as the catastrophe of Kuwait, it is paramount that we make our cooperation and harmony our impregnable and secure fort, a strong edifice to protect our security, safety, development, and progress as well as ward off the plots of the greedy, the perfidious, and the plotters.

In this respect, we cannot but admit that the Arab order has failed to face up to the disaster that has befallen us, and has contributed only slightly to dealing with it. This order must be revised and reviewed, and perhaps the lesson that we draw from what happened is that cooperation between brothers must be through Arab institutions that work in a sound and scientific way, that can be seen, touched, and judged by Arab citizens.

In this respect, at the forefront of our preoccupations is the establishment of economic cooperation between the Arab states—one that benefits from the experiences of the past and works for promoting economic structures and for adopting development policies that are likely to realize a dignified life for Arab citizens. We must all make available for this cooperation everything made possible by our material and human potential. We must work together to build a better future for our glorious Arab nation.

On the international level, brothers, we are part of a world that is witnessing the formation of a new order of relations between states, nations, and peoples; an order that is taking us to more advanced, peaceful, secure, and stable levels; an order that is seeking to rid itself of problems and crises thanks to cooperation, understanding, freedom, and peace as an alternative to tension, divisions, and wars.

While we welcome these positive international trends, we are determined, God willing, to contribute to setting up the foundations of this new international order, with a spirit of responsibility and objectiveness, so that our contemporary fellow humans are able to enjoy security, stability, growth, and prosperity.

Brothers, the darkest moments of the night are those when the struggle between darkness and the birth of dawn are at its highest. We are today living those moments, and at the same time we are hoping—in the same way the believer hopes, who does not lose faith in the spirit of God or allow despair to enter his heart—that behind this darkness lies the brightness of daybreak, rising with security and plenitude over our ascending Gulf, over our Islamic nation, over our Arab family, and over our international community.

God was right when he said: Do you think that you shall enter into the garden of bliss without such trials as came to those who passed before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the apostle, and those of faith who were with him, cried: When comes the help of God? Ah verily; the help of God is always near.

Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

'Serious Differences' Emerge

NC2512144290 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, Dec 25 (AFP)—Leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), who have been holding a summit here since Saturday, encountered serious differences Tuesday on bilateral and defense matters, conference sources said.

Heads of state from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have failed to meet in plenary session since Monday and have spent their time in bilateral contacts.

They were to have gathered early Tuesday to approve final resolutions drafted by a special committee of GCC representatives over the past three days.

The delays reflect "serious" indications that differences have emerged during the summit, which was scheduled to conclude later Tuesday, according to conference sources.

But senior delegation officials strongly deny suggestions that the council is divided on how to confront the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, whose country backs a peaceful resolution in the Gulf, insisted there were no differences between his government and Kuwait.

He attributed reports of such a split to "rumors circulated by journalists" here.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday asserted that the GCC wanted to liberate Kuwait by peaceful means, "as long as peace is possible, or by war, when war is the only way."

Conference sources said difficulties at the summit likely reflected sharp debate over regional security arrangements, the possible rupture of diplomatic relations with Iraq and bilateral matters—notably a dispute over two islands between Qatar and Bahrain.

In addition, according to informed sources, some GCC members want to provide financial aid to other Arab states regardless of their position on the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait.

But there have also been reports here that certain delegations want such assistance to be determined by the recipient's reaction to the Gulf crisis.

Al-Sabah Speaks at Final Session

NC2512204490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, has stressed that the resolutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] are sound, responsible, and effective. He added that the people in the Gulf look forward to the results of this summit with hope that the march will be accelerated, the ties strengthened, and the bases of fraternity consolidated to achieve a unified Gulf free from all barriers and with a shared destiny, future, and hopes.

In a speech he delivered at the final meeting of the 11th session of the GCC summit held here tonight, he invited the leaders of the GCC member states to attend the 12th session on Kuwaiti soil next year. On behalf of his people, the amir of Kuwait expressed his appreciation for the solidarity shown to them in their ordeal by the GCC member states and thanked the leaders of the GCC member states for the hospitality they have extended in their own countries. The following is the text of the speech by the amir of Kuwait at the final session of the summit:

In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful.

We praise and thank God, seek His forgiveness, and send prayers to our Lord and Prophet Muhammad, the last of the messengers and prophets.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar and summit chairman; my brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; my brothers their majesties and highnesses; my brother members of the delegations:

It pleases me to convey to you, on behalf of the leaders of the GCC member states, our profound appreciation for the amir, government, and people of Qatar for their generous and brotherly hospitality and for the overwhelming feelings expressed by the brotherly Qatari people. All this, in addition to the excellent arrangements for the summit contributed to creating an appropriate atmosphere for our deliberations, which was of considerable help to us in reaching the resolutions that suit the circumstances of the current stage. Let me express to his highnesses my brother the chairman my thanks and appreciation as well as my commendation for chairing the deliberations of this historic meeting.

In following your summit, the people of Kuwait are certain that their just cause is the core of your discussions; that their deep wound is the subject of your attention; and that their right to exercise their will, enjoy their sovereignty, and live their lives are your concerns. He who has suffered the pains of torture, persecution, and oppression, and who has remained steadfast in the face of all abominable and criminal measures, saw in your summit a great hope for salvation from the injustice done to him. He who chose to survive the perils of extermination and face the sufferings of displacement

saw in your meeting a fraternal determination to help him return to his land, home, and kinsfolk.

The issue of Kuwait has been your main concern since the beginning of the disaster. As leaders, you have lived it, the same as your peoples have lived it, expressing feelings of love and loyalty. You spared no efforts to alleviate by all means available the sufferings wrought by the disaster, and your resolutions on Kuwait were sound, responsible, and effective. All people in the Gulf look forward to this meeting with hope that the march will be accelerated, the ties strengthened, and the bases of fraternity consolidated to achieve a unified Gulf free from any barriers and with a shared destiny, future, and hopes.

Your Highness the chairman, it is an honor for the people of Kuwait, who have faith in the acts of God and who know that victory comes from God Almighty, to invite you to meet, God willing, on Kuwaiti soil next year for the 12th session of the GCC Higher Council so that they can express to you their sincere appreciation for embracing them in their ordeal. Let me also convey to you, brother leaders, the Kuwaiti people's thanks for the hospitality you have extended to them in your countries as well as their appreciation for your generosity, attention, and care.

Let me express once again to you, Your Highness the chairman, the feelings of appreciation and gratitude, wishing you, on behalf of my brother leaders and in the name of the members of the delegation, success in your actions, and hoping that under your leadership Qatar will attain the prosperity, stability, and security to which it aspires. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Al-Khatir Answers Questions

NC2512225090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Dec (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir has emphasized that the Kuwaiti issue was at the center of the consultations and discussions held by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states.

At a news conference this evening, he said that the planned visit by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to China is part of the efforts to implement the UN resolutions on Kuwait. He expressed the GCC's appreciation for China's position on these resolutions.

Asked if Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation will affect Soviet-Gulf relations, al-Khatir said he does not expect any changes in Soviet policy, and added that this subject was not discussed during the summit.

The Qatari minister discussed the positions of some Arab countries which have supported legitimacy, condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and dispatched troops to the region. He added: We welcome the establishment of serious cooperation with these countries. As for the nature of this cooperation, this will be determined through direct contacts with them.

Regarding the nature of the security arrangements required in the region before and after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, al-Khatir said such arrangements have become indispensable.

Asked to name the countries that will participate in these arrangements, he said that they will be determined by virtue of their geographical location or by virtue of the nature of their regimes, adding that the nature of the security arrangements depends on whether Kuwait is liberated peacefully or by war.

Asked if Iran will take part in these security arrangements, al-Khatir said that Iran is among the countries which meet the criterion of geographical location. At any rate, he added, these arrangements will materialize in their final form after Kuwait is liberated, when things become clear.

The Qatari foreign minister answered a question on the nature of cooperation between the GCC members and the other Arab countries. He said that there is dissatisfaction with the old system of inter-Arab cooperation, and there must be a new system upon which the Arab economic system must rest. This will ensure that security is related to the economic system, which must be established on fundamental principles in accordance with the Arab League Charter.

The Qatari minister then spoke about the military capabilities of the GCC members and the possibility of consolidating them. He said there is an intention to increase the GCC's defense force, to modernize the Gulf army, and strengthen its tactical abilities.

In this respect, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah, who also took part in the news conference, said that a strong defense shield for the GCC must be built that will depend in essence on the domestic military force of each member state.

Asked about the measures that will be taken if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by the 15 January deadline, al-Khatir said the GCC hopes Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait before this time. If it continues to refuse to withdraw, however, I believe the countries of the international community will have the right to take the appropriate step.

Answering the same question, Bisharah said that according to the theory of collective international security, anyone who harms this security must be stopped by any means. This has already happened to Iraq at the economic and diplomatic levels, and if it fails to respond to the call of the world community to withdraw, something must be done to force it to do so, he added.

The Qatari minister described Iran's position on the Gulf issue as "good," and added that Iran opposes the occupation and has implemented the economic sanctions against Iraq. He added: We hope that Iran will implement the U.N. resolutions on the Gulf issue in full.

Asked if the security arrangements in the region will affect the economic development plans of the GCC member states, al-Khatir said that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has had economic, political, and social effects on the countries in the region and has also resulted in a rift within the Arab ranks. Therefore, these arrangements will naturally have economic effects on the GCC member states.

Al-Khatir replied in the affirmative to a question on whether the GCC still considers the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added: We welcome the convening of an international conference to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Asked about the prospects for resolving border disputes among the GCC members, the Qatari foreign minister said there is nothing that cannot be solved. So long as there is good will, all our border disputes can be solved through mediation.

'Doha Declaration' Issued

NC2512193590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Dec (WAKH)—The leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states have decided to complete the establishment of security and defense arrangements that can ensure the safeguarding of the national security of each member state as well as the regional security of the six member states.

The leaders, in a declaration they issued under the name of the "Doha Declaration," emphasized the need for the full and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the sisterly State of Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government under the leadership of its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The following is the text of the Doha Declaration:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

The Higher Council;

The Doha Declaration;

The events and developments that the region has witnessed and the repercussions resulting from Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait require the strengthening of cohesiveness and solidarity, the consolidation of the bases of cooperation, and the promotion of coordination among the GCC member states in all fields.

The Iraqi aggression has upset all assumptions in inter-Arab relations. It poses a threat to the security and stability of the countries in the region and the entire world, and places the very existence of our Arab nation and its common destiny in the most serious danger. This aggression and its subsequent results, in terms of the ensuing rift in Arab solidarity and the setback to joint Arab action, indicates the need to establish a clear-cut and an integrated strategy regarding the future policies that must be followed to prevent the recurrence of such

aggression and to lay down more solid rules for stronger relations among our Arab countries.

The Iraqi invasion of the sisterly State of Kuwait has revealed that the security arrangements that exist within the framework of the GCC are inadequate. Therefore, their majesties and highnesses declare the following:

1. To stress their commitment to the contents of the Muscat Declaration issued at the 10th session of the GCC Higher Council.

2. To demand the full and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi troops from the sisterly State of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government under its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in accordance with the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions.

3. To complete the establishment of security and defensive arrangements for the GCC member states to ensure that the individual national security of each member state and the collective regional security of all member states are safeguarded.

4. To reiterate the firm and principled position of the GCC member states in support of the heroic Palestinian intifadah and in support of the Palestinian issue, the Arabs' main cause, to which the international community must find a just solution that will restore the legitimate rights of its people, foremost being their rights to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

5. To increase political coordination among the GCC member states on the domestic, regional, Arab, and international levels.

6. To promote economic cooperation among the GCC member states, particularly in:

a. Developing new concepts of common economic action to accelerate economic integration.

b. Laying down a program for completing the establishment of a common market among the GCC member states and of an agreement for a unified trade policy.

c. Reassessing the Unified Economic Agreement with a view toward achieving benefits that can bring about a balance of interests among the member states and overcome obstacles.

7. To increase coordination among the media agencies of the GCC member states in order to confront hostile media campaigns, and to establish a common information plan among the GCC member states with a view to following up and analyzing the international media and advising the media agencies on how to deal with it.

8. To support the GCC general secretariat in forming committees of experts to study and develop proposals for integrated projects so that they can be submitted to the competent ministerial committees.

Communique Issued

NC2512183590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Dec (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Higher Council has reiterated its strong condemnation of the Iraqi regime for its blatant and oppressive aggression against Kuwait and for persisting in its refusal to comply with the principles of the Arab League, Resolution 195 of the Arab summit conference, and the UN resolutions on the aggression against Kuwait. In the final communique issued by the 11th session of the GCC that concluded in Doha this evening, which was read by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the GCC Higher Council emphasized that the governments and peoples of the member states stand beside Kuwait in its ordeal and will extend the fullest support to and solidarity with its people and government in their struggle until Kuwait is fully liberated.

The GCC Higher Council praised the steadfast Kuwaiti people who reject occupation and cling to their legitimate government under the leadership of Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. It expressed appreciation for the Kuwaiti people's sacrifices in the face of terrorism, repression, torture, and indiscriminate executions. It lauded their continued resistance and determination to conquer the forces of evil and aggression. It expressed its pride in the cohesion of the united Kuwaiti family which was manifested by the popular Kuwaiti conference held in Jeddah. The GCC Higher Council recalled the individual and collective efforts by the member states before and after Iraq's oppressive invasion of Kuwait to avert this tragedy, and their sincere and serious endeavors to find a peaceful solution.

The GCC Higher Council expressed its appreciation for the good efforts exerted by certain leaders of fraternal and friendly countries to persuade the Iraqi regime to comply with Arab legitimacy in accordance with the Arab summit conference resolutions and the international will as expressed by the Security Council resolutions. The GCC Higher Council stressed that its member states will stand up to the Iraqi aggression and are determined to resist it and nullify all its effects, proceeding from the premise that aggression against any member state is aggression against all member states, that the GCC's security is indivisible, and that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is aggression against all the GCC member states.

The GCC Higher Council reiterated its demand that the Iraqi leadership respect international charters and norms as well as the agreements and treaties it concluded with Kuwait. It called on Iraq to choose peace to preserve the Iraqi people's achievements and to prevent the squandering of their resources, potential, and blood in a confrontation that will only bring losses and devastation. It called on the Iraqi regime to begin withdrawing its forces from all Kuwaiti territory immediately and unconditionally so that the legitimate authority can be

restored before 15 January to spare the Iraqi people and the peoples of the region the horrors of a destructive war. It demanded that the Iraqi regime respect civilians, ensure the safety of their property, and maintain public and private establishments.

The GCC Higher Council held Iraq responsible for paying compensation for damages resulting from the invasion suffered by Kuwaiti Government establishments, banks, institutions, and public and private companies as well as for the seizure of property, funds, and assets which have been transferred out of Kuwait.

The GCC Higher Council decided to entrust a committee composed of the foreign ministers of the GCC member states with the task of visiting the countries which are permanent members of the Security Council and other important countries. It expressed the hope that the Iraqi regime will respond to the dictates of Arab and international legitimacy. At the same time, it stressed the GCC member states' right and determination to resort to all means necessary to secure the restoration of sovereignty and legitimate authority to Kuwait. It asserted that the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces that came to the region at the GCC's request will return to their countries when they are requested to by the GCC countries, which will be done after the circumstances that required their presence—the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat to the GCC countries—are removed.

Following is the text of the final communique of the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The final communique of the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council, held in Doha in the State of Qatar 5-8 Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22-25 December 1990

In response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and with God's help and providence, the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council was held in the city of Doha 5-8 Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22-25 December 1990. The session was attended by Their Majesties and Highnesses Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates; Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques; Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman; Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait.

The Iraqi Regime's Aggression Against Kuwait

The Higher Council reviewed the serious situation created in the region as a result of the Iraqi regime's occupation of the sovereign state of Kuwait, which has posed a threat to the security and safety of the GCC member-states and resulted in the shedding of the blood of the innocent Kuwaiti people, the displacement of the Kuwaiti people and others residing in Kuwait, arrests

and torture, looting of properties, and the violation of sanctities in an attempt to obliterate the Kuwaiti identity and entity.

The Higher Council also discussed the serious repercussions of this aggression on security and stability in the Gulf region and the Arab world, as well as on world peace and security.

The Higher Council reiterates its strong condemnation of the Iraqi regime for its arbitrary and oppressive aggression against the State of Kuwait and its continued refusal to comply with the principles of the Arab League Charter, Arab Summit Resolution 195, the UN Charter, and the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the aggression against Kuwait. As it repeats its condemnation of these acts, the council reiterates that the GCC governments and peoples stand beside the State of Kuwait in its ordeal and extend their full support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Kuwaiti Government and people until full liberation is achieved.

The Higher Council commends the Kuwaiti people's steadfast rejection of the occupation and their adherence to their legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The council also pays tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kuwaiti people in confronting terrorism, oppression, torture, and indiscriminate executions, and it honors their continued resistance and determination to defeat the forces of evil and aggression. The council expresses pride in the cohesion of the one Kuwaiti household, as demonstrated during the Kuwaiti popular conference in the city of Jeddah.

As it recalls the individual and collective efforts made by the GCC members before and after the tyrannical Iraqi aggression against Kuwait on 2 August to avert this tragedy, and their sincere and serious endeavors to find a peaceful solution, the council expresses gratitude for the good efforts of the leaders of sisterly and friendly states to persuade the Iraqi regime to comply with the principles of legitimacy and respect the resolutions of the Arab League Summit and the UN Security Council.

The council reiterates the GCC countries' firm stand in the face of the Iraqi aggression and their determination to resist it and nullify its negative consequences, proceeding from the premise that aggression against any member state is aggression against all GCC member states, and that the security of the GCC member states is indivisible.

Therefore, the council reiterates its demand that the Iraqi leadership respect international norms and charters as well as the agreements it concluded with the State of Kuwait, and calls on it to choose peace to preserve the Iraqi people's achievements and prevent the squandering of their resources, potential, and blood in a confrontation which will only result in losses and destruction. The council calls on the Iraqi regime to begin withdrawing its troops from all Kuwaiti territory immediately and unconditionally so that the legitimate

authority can be restored to Kuwait before 15 January 1991. By doing so, the brotherly Iraqi people as well as the people of the region and the entire world will be spared the horrors of a destructive war.

The council calls on the Iraqi regime to respect civilians, to safeguard their lives and property, and to protect public and private properties and establishments in accordance with the provisions of Islamic sharia, the fourth Geneva convention on the protection of civilians in time of war, and international charters and agreements.

The Higher Council holds Iraq responsible for paying compensation to Kuwait for the damage inflicted on Kuwaiti Government establishments, banks, and public and private institutions and for the seizure and transfer of their holdings, funds, and deposits outside Kuwait. The council also reiterates the lawful right of Kuwaiti and other nationals to obtain just compensation for damages and losses suffered as a result of the oppressive Iraqi aggression.

Within the framework of the political and diplomatic efforts to consolidate the Arab and international consensus rejecting the aggression, and to guarantee the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, the GCC has decided to entrust a committee—comprised of the foreign ministers of its member states—with the task of visiting the permanent members of the Security Council, certain Arab countries, and other important countries.

Recalling the principles outlined in the Muscat Declaration released at the GCC's 10th session, principles which emphasize the basic rules and legitimacy to which the GCC member states are committed in their international relations, the GCC expresses its hope that the Iraqi regime will respond to the demands of Arab and international legitimacy. The principles enshrined in the Muscat declaration call for good-neighborly relations; mutual respect for national sovereignty; noninterference in the domestic affairs of all countries; respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all countries; refraining from the use of force or threats to use force; and resorting to dialogue and negotiations as an effective means to settle disputes. At the same time, the GCC underlines the right and determination of its member states to resort to all means necessary to secure the restoration of sovereignty and legitimacy to Kuwait.

The GCC expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all the Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries that stood on the side of right and legitimacy, condemned the aggression, and sought to end it by responding to the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy and to the GCC countries' request that they deploy their forces beside the Gulf forces to support the latter in their defensive tasks. The GCC also asserts that the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces that came to the region at the request of the GCC member states will return to their countries when the GCC member states request them to

do so after the circumstances that required their presence—the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat to the GCC countries—are removed. The GCC asserts that these honorable stands will have positive effects on relations in all fields between the GCC countries and these Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries.

The GCC March

The GCC Higher Council reviewed the stages of the march of joint action in the political, security, military, economic, and social fields. It discussed ways to promote cooperation and integration among the member states in accordance with the principles and goals outlined in the GCC's statute, while taking into account the security developments in the region in light of the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the developments and transformations affecting the essence of the order in the Arab world, and the current world developments that are transforming the international order.

The GCC emphasizes its concern to expedite steps and to make a qualitative leap in collective action among the member states in the forthcoming stage in order to achieve further coordination, integration, and cohesion out of its absolute conviction that its members share the same fate and goals. The GCC notes with satisfaction the development of security and military cooperation among the member states at this critical time in the region caused by Iraq's contempt for values and international charters and its defiance of the international will. The GCC takes pride in the unity of the GCC member states in the face of the Iraqi aggression and their determination to resist it. Out of their conviction of the importance of achieving further security and military cooperation among the member states, particularly in view of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat this poses to the security of the other member states, the GCC has endorsed the defense ministers' recommendations on strengthening the intrinsic defensive capabilities of its member states.

The GCC Higher Council also reviewed the trend of economic action and expressed satisfaction with the achievements of joint action in this field. It stressed its determination to continue the work to fulfill the ambitions and aspirations of the GCC peoples in completing the steps toward economic integration. To achieve this goal, the GCC Higher Council assigned the financial and economic cooperation committee the task of adopting the necessary measures to develop new concepts for joint economic action in order to expedite the achievement of economic integration and to draw up a program to complete the establishment of a common Gulf market, agree on a unified trade policy, evaluate economic cooperation, and examine the texts of the Unified Economic Agreement and methods of implementing it with the aim of securing new privileges that will enable the citizens of the GCC countries to enjoy new benefits in the march toward prosperity and development.

The Security Situation in the Region

The Higher Council notes with deep regret the deterioration of security conditions in the region as a result of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait's territory. It also notes that although the entire region is on the verge of a destructive war, the Iraqi authorities have shown complete disregard for the consequences of such a war for the fraternal Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the entire world.

Believing that establishing and safeguarding security in this vital part of the world serves the interests of the regions' states, the Arab nation, and the entire world, the council reiterates its desire to adopt all measures necessary to protect the region's security and stability. It declares its determination to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation among the GCC members to strengthen their individual and joint defensive capabilities to serve the interests of the region, its security and prosperity, and to bolster world peace.

In this context, the council particularly appreciates the role being played by Arab states in support of Arab legitimacy. It looks forward to coordinating efforts with these states to find a way out of the tragedy triggered by the oppressive Iraqi aggression. It is also eager to work alongside these states to heal the rift, unite Arab stands, and establish a stronger and more cohesive Arab system.

In the meantime, and in view of international detente and the clear movement toward a new world order, the GCC countries will work with the region's countries, as well as the Arab and world household, to take the necessary measures to avoid the recurrence of such aggression and to lay the bases for stabilizing security in the region and serving the interests of world peace and security.

The Current Arab Situation

The Higher Council studied the current deterioration in Arab relations as a result of the Iraqi regime's disregard for Arab norms and charters, the schism created in Arab ranks by the Iraqi aggression, the collapse of Arab solidarity, and the lack of trust among the members of the Arab household. The council also noted that Arab energies are being wasted in fields far removed from Arab development and interests as a result of the oppressive aggression.

In this context, the council underscores the importance of working to reverse the current destructive trend in the Arab home and to heal the rift on the basis of a clear commitment in words and deeds to the principles of respect for Arab neighbors, noninterference in internal affairs, and refraining from the use of force or political threats and extortion. In this way, all human and material resources can be devoted to Arab and Muslim issues and a better future can be guaranteed for the Arab citizen in all corners of the Arab world.

The GCC states have made effective contributions to Arab development efforts at the bilateral, regional, and international levels. The council members desire to draw up new Arab development plans and believe in the importance of a joint Gulf development policy based on a new concept, which takes into account the contributions these efforts will make to political stability and regional security amid the economic difficulties resulting from the Iraqi aggression against the Arab world. Therefore, the council has decided to set up a program to subsidize development efforts in Arab and Muslim states. This program aims primarily at encouraging economic openness and market economies, improving Arab economic performance, and attracting world support for the Arab development process through encouraging international financing institutions and national development aid agencies to contribute to national development plans in Arab states.

The GCC countries express their determination to provide the necessary financing for such a program. Accordingly, the GCC foreign ministers will meet next week to work out the details and determine the funds required for the program from members' contributions and each country's share according to its resources.

The Higher Council reviewed developments in the Palestinian issue and voiced concern over the consequences of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its negative repercussions on the Palestinian cause. The council recalls its previous resolutions and statements on the issue. It reiterates its commendation of the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and their daring intifadah in the face of the oppressive Israeli occupation and its suppressive and arbitrary practices.

As it reiterates its members' full and absolute support for the historic Palestinian intifadah, the council appeals to the international community to provide the necessary support for the intifadah and for the sons of the occupied territories in their ordeal. It also appeals to the international community to work to expose the Israeli terrorist methods, put an end to the occupation troops' arbitrary and oppressive measures, and stop the deportation of the Palestinian people from and the demolition of their homes, as such practices violate human rights and international laws and charters.

The council welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 681 on providing international protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories. It also welcomes the UN Security Council's call for holding an international peace conference on the Palestinian issue. In this regard, the council reaffirms its support for the convocation of an international peace conference in which all parties concerned, including the state of Palestine, will participate. It also calls for taking all measures necessary to hold the conference.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the GCC Higher Council notes with deep satisfaction the recent positive developments and the legitimate Lebanese Government's

achievements in extending its authority over Greater Beirut and other areas. The GCC Higher Council expresses its desire that Lebanon achieve its full unity and territorial integrity. In this respect, the GCC Higher Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Hassan II, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and for the constructive role played by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in assisting the legitimate Lebanese Government. The GCC Higher Council exhorts the international community to continue to support the al-Ta'if Accord. The GCC Higher Council reasserts its support for His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and its desire for the restoration of security and stability throughout Lebanon. Recalling Resolution No. 185 of the emergency Arab summit conference, which provides for the establishment of an international fund for reconstruction and development in Lebanon, the GCC Higher Council emphasizes its support for this fund to enable Lebanon to begin reconstruction and exercise its cultural role in the Arab and international arenas.

Relations With Iran

The GCC Higher Council welcomes the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve and promote its relations with all GCC countries. The GCC Higher Council underlines the importance of serious and realistic action to settle the outstanding differences between Iran and the GCC member states so that the countries of the region can proceed to achieve their cherished goals and exploit their resources for comprehensive economic development. The GCC Higher Council stresses its desire to establish distinguished relations with Iran on the basis of good-neighborliness; noninterference in domestic affairs; and respect for sovereignty, independence, and peaceful coexistence deriving from the bonds of religion and heritage that link the countries of the region.

International Developments

The GCC Higher Council examined the report prepared by the tripartite ministerial committee charged with studying international developments and evaluating their effects on the GCC countries. Out of its conviction of the importance of dealing with the requirements of international developments in a way that will safeguard the interests of the GCC member states and peoples, the GCC Higher Council ratified the recommendations submitted to it. The GCC Higher Council welcomes the new spirit of concord between East and West. It expresses its satisfaction with the political and economic openness being witnessed in East Europe in view of its effective role and the contribution this makes to enhancing peace and allowing human resources to be used for development instead of squandering funds in an exhausting and futile arms race. It praises the rational spirit prevailing in international relations based on mutual respect for sovereignty; balance of interests; and rejection of aggression, treachery, and occupation. The GCC Higher Council welcomes unified Germany as a factor for stability and

as an effective member of the international community in support of development and international progress in a world permeated with the spirit of peace, understanding, reason, wisdom, and prosperity.

The GCC Higher Council wishes to express its solidarity with developing countries and its continued support for them in their efforts to achieve economic growth and improve the standard of living of their peoples. It asserts that its preoccupation with the repercussions of the sinful Iraqi aggression will not divert the attention of its member states from continuing their cooperation and solidarity with the developing countries in their efforts to establish a more equitable international economic order. The GCC Higher Council decided to ask GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah to remain in his post. It expresses its utmost appreciation and gratitude to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and to his government and people for the hospitality and reception extended to the GCC leaders and members of their delegations. It praises the excellent preparations and accurate arrangements for the convenience of the delegations and the success of the summit. The GCC Higher Council looks forward to its 12th session in Kuwait next December, God willing, in response to the invitation of the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Issued in Doha on 8 Jumada al-Akhirah, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 25 December 1990.

Summit Concludes

NC2512181390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Dec (WAKH)—The leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded the meetings of their 11th session this evening. The meetings lasted for four days under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar and chairman of the current session.

The session was attended by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates; King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain and head of its delegation to the summit. The final session was also attended by members of the delegations accompanying the leaders of the GCC member states, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, and members of the GCC general secretariat's delegation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Officials Reaffirm Solidarity With Iraq

JN2412154990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—Two ranking Palestinian officials have stressed that Iraq's confrontation of the sinful U.S. aggression is an important page in the chapter of the Arab battle against the Zionist and imperialist presence in the Arab region.

Speaking to INA, Fatah Central Committee Members Hani al-Hasan and 'Abdallah al-Ifranji called on the Arab nation to adhere to leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative because it lays firm foundations for Arab rights and provides radical solutions to the region's problems, away from the policy of threats and aggression.

Mr. Hani al-Hasan, who is also in charge of the Fatah Foreign Relations Office, said the factions of the Palestinian revolution are ready to perform their pan-Arab role in the battle, in one trench with the Iraqi people, if the United States and its allies carry out their aggression.

He underlined the Arab's legitimate right to mobilize all their resources to beat back the U.S. aggression. It is high time that the foreign presence on the Arab land be terminated to safeguard pan-Arab security, he said.

Mr. al-Hasan criticized U.S. policy, which aims at imposing hegemony on the Arab region. He pointed out that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, with the principles and basis it sets for an Arab solution, is the right option to protect pan-Arab security and end U.S. hegemony over the Arab region. This is the option that enjoys the support of the Arab and Palestinian masses, he said.

Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ifranji said the U.S. presence in the Arab region is aimed at imposing full imperialist U.S. domination over the Arab nation's oil wealth and controlling oil prices at the expense of all world nations.

He stressed that Iraq is fully able to confront every U.S. aggression, thanks to its military and scientific capabilities and to the readiness of all Arab masses to join it in the pan-Arab battle in order to drive the aggressors out of the Arabian Peninsula.

Iraq's battle against the U.S. aggression, he said, is the battle of all factions of the Palestinian revolution against the U.S. and Zionist presence in the region.

Mr. al-Ifranji stressed that any peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf situation is not possible before the departure of the U.S. troops from the entire Arabian Peninsula.

He asserted that President Saddam Husayn's historic initiative of 12 August has exposed the double standard practiced by the United States through its hegemony over the UN Security Council, its control over the Council's unjust resolutions against Iraq, and its obstruction of international resolutions on the Palestine question.

Israel, U.S. Troops To Be Attacked in War

JN2512170290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1433 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—Salih Ra'fat, member of the leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the PLO Central Council, affirmed the readiness of DFLP factions and intifadah forces to launch an armed war against the Zionist entity and the U.S. presence in the Arab region in the event of a U.S. aggression on Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, Salih Ra'fat said the land from the ocean to the Gulf will burn under the invaders' feet, and Bush and his allies will not be able to stem the tide of the Arab revolution liberating the region from U.S.-Zionist hegemony.

Ra'fat explained that the trench of confrontation led by Iraq against the U.S. presence in the Arab region requires that all Arab resources be mobilized. He expressed absolute confidence in the ability of Iraq under President Saddam Husayn to achieve victory over the aggressive invaders, to liberate Arab soil from the filth of the Zionists, and to confront the unjust U.S. aggression.

The Palestinian leader praised the historic initiative declared by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990, describing it as an integrated plan for resolving problems of the region in view of its realistic basis which constitutes an Arab peace plan.

He denounced the U.S. Administration's double-standard policies on Arab issues as manifested through its domination over the UN Security Council resolutions and obstruction of its many resolutions on the Palestine question.

Concluding his statement, Ra'fat affirmed that the recent UN Security Council resolution on securing protection for the Palestinian people does not meet the legitimate Palestinian demands which have been recognized by all international bodies and organizations.

Algeria

President Bendjedid To Visit Saudi Arabia

NC2512121590 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, Dec 25 (AFP)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid will visit Saudi Arabia during a new round of "exploratory" diplomacy in the search for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, authoritative sources said Tuesday.

During the past two weeks, President Chadli has visited 12 countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe in an attempt to avert a looming conflict in the Gulf.

But he returned empty handed after failing to visit Saudi Arabia during his first attempt to broker a peace settlement.

Mr. Chadli, according to Arab diplomatic sources, had hoped to secure a diplomatic settlement through an Iraq-Saudi summit. But Saudi authorities during his previous mission stressed that a peaceful resolution in the Gulf first required an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Iraq to date has vowed never to surrender Kuwait, which its forces seized and occupied August 2.

Algerian diplomats say Mr. Chadli is convinced that Iraq is "ready to talk" to the United States and that the Iraqis have "demonstrated a serious and sincere desire for a political and peaceful settlement."

A first tour took him to seven countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Iran and Iraq. He then went on to Italy, France, Spain, Morocco and Mauritania.

In a statement on Algerian radio Monday evening, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali said that "while the Europeans do not have much room to manoeuvre, they can nevertheless contribute to peace efforts."

He said "Euro-Iraqi dialogue is still possible even if there are no U.S.-Iraqi negotiations."

Reportage on Bendjedid Visit to Europe

WA2612125090

For reportage on the visit by President Bendjedid to Italy, France, and Spain, including reports on his Gulf peace talks with officials of those countries, please see the relevant sections of the 24 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Peace Possibilities

NC2412153090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has warned against the damage Iraq will suffer if it rejects a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and a peaceful solution. He affirmed that each day that passes until 15 January brings Iraq closer to war. In statements to newsmen after inaugurating the Olympic swimming pool near Cairo stadium, President Mubarak expressed his fear about the heavy damage the Iraqi people will suffer should war break out.

President Mubarak answered a question about U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's statement, which gave the impression that there was little hope for a peaceful solution and for an Iraqi withdrawal before 15 January. President Mubarak said: As the deadline approaches, the danger increases. I hope that the brothers in Iraq understand the gravity of the situation. My meetings with delegations and officials from West and East European states, as well as those from the United States, have enabled me to see the full picture and the danger facing Iraq.

He added that, despite differences among some states in the world—east and west—all maintain the same view regarding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. I discovered this through my talks with officials from various countries.

President Mubarak asked: Does it make sense for one country to defy the entire world? This is completely foolhardy. What interests will be served by war and by the death of countless Arabs?

He further added: When a head of state sees that his country is facing this kind of danger, he must return to his senses and reconsider his position so that he can safeguard his people and kinfolk. He must do this even if it entails retracting his words 500 times, as long as this is in the interests of his country. This does not mean weakness [taraddud], because nobody willingly puts his head into the "lion's mouth" and insists on his opinion. To do so is illogical.

President Mubarak noted that a peaceful solution does not mean surrender because we must be realistic. Unfortunately, they cannot see reality. Some people have not changed, and still adopt the policy of talk alone. The president warned that we are at the end of the 20th century and the situation is very serious, adding: I have exerted and continue to exert every effort with all parties to find a solution to the problem. In return, I hear strange statements from them to the effect that they intended to withdraw three days after the invasion, but changed their mind because of the condemnation by the Arab states. President Mubarak dismissed these claims and asked: Could Egypt remain silent about such a

disaster to the Arab nation and accept the occupation of one Arab state by another? I do not believe that a single Egyptian citizen would have accepted my remaining silent.

President Mubarak also stated: I delayed making a statement for 24 hours in the hope that a solution could be found. We were criticized for this from abroad, and Egyptians started to ask questions about our position, particularly because almost all Egyptians have relatives working in Iraq or Kuwait and wanted to know their whereabouts.

The president added: Frankly, I have started to worry about what will happen. By virtue of one man's decision, thousands may die. They are living in a fantasy and imagine they will be victorious over the United States; I really do not know how they think they can beat the United States.

President Mubarak stressed that it is unreasonable for Iraq to believe it can stand up to the multinational forces from the U.S., British, and French Armies, stating: As a military man, and on the basis of my experience in military planning, I wonder how this massive troop buildup can be faced.

Asked about the position of some of the Arab countries supporting Iraq, the president said: It is my belief that these countries thought the matter would be over in 10 or 15 days, and that the whole thing would result in a little noise but would then blow over. From the very first day, I told King Husayn of Jordan that the situation was more serious than he thought and that the whole world would oppose the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They did not believe us. I said this on the basis of my experience, my contacts and visits all over the world, and my talks with world leaders. It was my duty, as the president of Egypt and based on my experience and my views, to tell them the truth about what could happen, and that he [Saddam] must withdraw if he wishes to protect his people.

Asked what Egypt's position will be should the world political analysis and expectations prove correct and President Saddam Husayn makes a partial withdrawal before 15 January, the president said: It is not a matter of a position. In my meeting with King Husayn four days after the invasion I told him: Let the meeting be between a Kuwaiti and an Iraqi delegation. It is a matter of principle, and when I condemned the invasion I did so as a matter of principle.

President Mubarak further noted that a few months before the invasion, the amir of Kuwait paid an official visit to Iraq and was awarded Iraq's highest medal. President Mubarak expressed surprise that Saddam Husayn, after making a promise and giving his word, had stabbed him [Mubarak] in the back. He said: In fact, I was ashamed when I was told of the Iraqi invasion. What is even worse is that they claimed I was lying and brought out witnesses they said could testify to this, although I do not know where these people came from.

He [Saddam] claims that during our telephone conversation four days after the invasion he told me that I had told him to make the meeting between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations before the invasion a ceremonial one. Does that make sense?

In response to another question on the Gulf Cooperation Council summit's discussions of the need to establish a pan-Arab security system, President Mubarak said: What we are concerned about now and what we are working for is the withdrawal. After the withdrawal, there must be an Arab plan that comes from the Gulf countries themselves, because no country should impose itself on another Arab country. President Mubarak added that in this case, the Gulf states will choose the pan-Arab security system that suits them best, and it is up to them to decide if they need assistance or support from another Arab country, because each group of people should choose what they want.

In response to another question on Iran's possible participation in Gulf security arrangements, President Mubarak said: I cannot comment on this before the crisis is over. Iran is a big country in the Gulf and one which we cannot ignore. As for the method and plan, this is up to the Gulf states to decide because they are the ones concerned. [passage omitted]

Romanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2512102990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA)—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a delegation including two members of the Senate, two members of the House of Deputies, and the deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Desk. The Romanian officials are on a two-day visit to Egypt.

Following his arrival, Minister Nastase said that he is carrying a message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message deals with bilateral ties and the general situation in the region.

The Romanian foreign minister said that this is his first official visit to an Arab country, adding that he will discuss several issues with Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks, he said, will deal with the problems in the region as well as bilateral relations.

Minister Nastase noted that his delegation will hold talks with Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab concerning industrial cooperation. The delegation will also meet People's Assembly speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2512153890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Romania were held today under the cochairmanship of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase. The talks lasted for two hours.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that discussions focused on recent developments in Romania and the emergence of democracy and freedom there. He said bilateral relations and ways to bolster them were reviewed during the meeting, adding that the two sides agreed to set up a joint ministerial committee to promote bilateral cooperation. The committee will meet twice a year, once in Cairo and once in Bucharest.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also said that the talks dealt also with developments in the Gulf crisis, adding that the two sides' views on the issue were identical. Romania is a member of the UN Security Council and was the Council's president in August when the crisis broke out.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Romanian stand on the Gulf crisis is very responsive to the international stand, and that the talks also dealt with the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

The Romanian foreign minister stated that his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid were very fruitful and focused on bilateral relations. He reiterated that his country is eager to develop these relations. He also called for opening doors to investors from the two sides so that they can play an active role in joint projects which serve the two countries' interests.

Libya

Islamic Group Claims Arab 'Consensus' on Gulf

LD2412190190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Dec (JANA)—The results of the contacts made by the subcommittee of the emergency conference of the World Popular Islamic Leadership with the parties in the Gulf conflict and with neighboring Islamic states were announced at a news conference in Tripoli, the Great Jamahiriyyah, today.

The committee visited Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, and is preparing to visit Egypt and Saudi Arabia to conclude its task within the framework of Arab and Islamic efforts to solve the Gulf crisis.

The committee announced that the results of its contacts with the states it visited affirmed the existence of common denominators in their stances. These are:

The acceptance and welcoming of the brother leader of the revolution's initiative to solve the Gulf crisis was

announced on the 21st anniversary of the great 1 September Revolution. Those contacted are to be consulted on the appropriate mechanisms and means of implementing it. There is also a consensus on deploring and condemning the foreign military presence in the Arab region. This was clear, even on the part of those states that are participating with forces in the Gulf. Moreover, most of the states spoke of the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

The committee said that its contacts with the various parties had confirmed the existence of a consensus on the dangerousness of the situation, and of a feeling that the results of war would be destructive for the present and future of the region: that it would effect all parties; and that ultimately, it would reinforce foreign control of the region.

Regarding a solution to the problem, the committee affirmed that an Arab-Islamic dialogue is what would solve the crisis in a way compatible with the interests of the peoples of the region. However, an international perspective to a solution would lead to the same results as war.

The World Popular Islamic Leadership held its emergency conference in Tripoli on 30-31 October 1990, and discussed for two consecutive days the brother leader of the revolution's initiative for a solution to the Gulf crisis. At the conclusion of that conference it decided to adopt the initiative and to call for its implementation.

Tunisia

'Around 100' Islamic Fundamentalists Said Arrested

LD2512205490 Paris International Service in French
1830 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] In Tunisia the arrest of Islamic members of the Ennahdha movement carried out this weekend continued today, and reached the figure of around 100. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Boughezi] The number of those arrested is growing by the hour, and among them are four leaders of the Ennahdha movement, its spokesman Ali Laaridh and three other members of the steering bureau. The government daily LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in today's morning issue states that the people were arrested by order of the investigating magistrate of the Tunis Military Tribunal [words indistinct]. There is, however, no official confirmation of the number of arrests in the past 48 hours. According to informed sources, those arrested (?will be charged) with threatening state security and attempting to overthrow the regime—a charge already rejected on behalf of his comrades by Hamadi Djebali, the director of EL BAYAN, the Ennahdha newspaper. Djebali considers that committing four Ennahdha leaders to trial under such serious accusations represents in fact a political trial directed against the entire Islamic fundamentalism movement, to destroy its image in the eyes of public opinion. The Islamic leader also says that his movement will continue its struggle with (?equal) means. This is Rida Boughezi for RFI in Tunis.

Mexican Television Interviews Saddam Husayn

PA2612061490 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 0437 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Fernando Alcala in Baghdad on 24 December; translated from Arabic into Spanish—recorded]

[Text] [Alcala] Mr. President, first of all, thank you for receiving us—Eco, Televisa, Univisa, and the Hispanic world which is our audience. Thank you, President Saddam Husayn, for giving us this opportunity.

[Saddam] We thank you and believe this is a good occasion for the interview.

[Alcala] Mr. President, all deadlines must be met and the entire world asks: What will happen on midnight of 15 January 1991? Will there be a war?

[Saddam] Only God knows what will happen. He is the only one, the Almighty, who knows everything. There are always two elements—good and evil—and they are always trying to conquer the human being. Only God Almighty knows which of these two elements will eventually prevail and why. However, you know that life continues and mankind is always [words indistinct] and good always prevails in the end. Whenever someone says a prayer and asks for peace, particularly today when Christmas is being commemorated, those prayers by the good people of the world will surely reach God.

[Alcala] Mr. President, experience shows us that it is easier to start a war than to end it. You have that experience. How does President Saddam Husayn expect to prevent an armed conflict in this part of the world?

[Saddam] We will insist that peace must prevail, according to the principles that have been established by God to achieve peace. These principles give preference to human values, the supreme values, and restore the [words indistinct] rights. How can the achievement of peace be possible when a peace-loving human being surrenders to the wolf in the forest, or when a massacre occurs because that human being has become the prey?

[Alcala] Mr. President, you have talked about the Arab world as a whole. Do you think it possible for the Arab world to function as a whole considering its characteristics, the differences among its members, and old and new problems? Do you think you can unite and rally the Arab states?

[Saddam] What is really important is not around whom the Arab nations rally. It is more important for us to precisely and correctly describe these countries as a nation. You know or should know that the Arab nation is one for a number of reasons. There are many points in common in the countries of this nation, both in thought, history, culture, (?traditions), and deep heritage as expressed in the most profound meaning of this word. History has always testified that this nation has always been one. There is much evidence of this, the most

important of which is the political unity that has existed and continues to exist among the countries of this nation. However, the most prominent characteristic of this unity today is that almost an absolute majority of the Arab countries admit that they are members of a single nation. This idea has been present in these countries in the past, is in them at present, and will be in the future. In addition, the countries that form this single nation have come to identify with one another. I suppose you know that all the messengers and prophets of all of the religions originated from and emerged in this nation. Not one of them came out of any other nation. For instance, if we consider a big nation, one with many inhabitants, we will find that an absolute majority of the people in such a nation profess the same religion. In the case of the Arab nation, however, all of the prophets of all of the religions lived in this nation. This nation has the heritage of all religions which have ever existed in the world. This might be the main reason why chauvinism does not exist either in the Arab nation or in its dealings with mankind or other states or nations.

[Alcala] I wonder if the fact that the region of the world where we are right now, the cradle of the three great monotheist religions—Christian, Muslim, of course, and Judaism—can also be the origin of conflict. What does the president think?

[Saddam] Religions cannot be blamed for what is happening, for this conflict in this area, because all monotheist religions believe in one God, and they are not the reason or the motive of conflicts. What is happening now between Arabs and Zionists is not due to the existence of a [words indistinct] religion. I believe that this evil trend, this Zionist chauvinistic political trend, is not part of the Judaic religion.

Surely the Jewish religion, the religion of the Prophet Moses, was never a chauvinistic religion.

[Alcala] Mr. President, from the times of the Ottoman Empire, all the Arab countries have in some way suffered the rule of different empires—the English, the French, and other empires. Their maps have been drawn and have been made outside the Arab world. Are you planning, as you already have in a way, to change the maps of the Middle East, or to prevent other people from changing them?

[Saddam] We certainly reject the will of some evil people who try to impose a new map on the Arab nation, according to their selfish interests. However, [words indistinct] a new map of the Arab states, who formed the Arab nation, throughout their cultural development and civilization. The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, our party, does not intend to annul this map, because it seeks to gather unity, which is so much a part of our constitution, and human traits do not annul the uniqueness of one of our countries when it proposes a formula of unity among all the countries.

We might use an example to provide an image similar to what we want to portray. If we take the United States as

an example to effect unity among these nations, this does not imply humbling the states. They became the United States without violating their rights. Also, to give you another view of the political friendship of Iraq, which is comprised of 18 or 19 provinces, the political unity that exists among these provinces does not annul the existence of each individual province.

I believe in the political structure that the citizens of the same nation want. They believe that it is better to express their free will, than for it to be decided from outside the country. This structure represents their interests and their aspirations. This is a reply to your question. Please do not now confuse the Arab actions. [Passage indistinct] because the Arab cause is to defend their human destiny and conduct if certain parties from outside the Arab nation try to violate the rights and human values [humanidad] of the Arabs.

[Alcala] Mr. President, the personal image of President Saddam Husayn has not only created surprise for more than a decade, but that image today in one way or another strikes fear in the Western world. Do you agree that President Saddam Husayn has changed the leadership of the Arab world?

[Saddam] The Arabs are not discussing the personality of this or that leader. They are not bothered if there is a great leader for example in France or the United States; (they might be bothered) by a personality, but they do not deploy their armies to invade that country because of its leader.

However, if you understand the reality in the West, do you not believe that this is the crux of the complex problem between Westerners and Arabs? Westerners have gone so far as to try to impose on the Arabs their way of thinking, even though they are standard-bearers of slogans on human rights, personal freedoms, democracy, and other principles. This is how far Western civilization and culture have gone—to try to impose on Muslims and Arabs their way of thinking in keeping with their Western concepts.

As far as we are concerned, we do not seek to change regimes or government systems in other countries unless the rulers involved are unable to handle their governments or when they are submissive to foreigners. I am sure that some Arab countries that are small in size and population would not be seeking any changes unless they were trying to satisfy the will of a foreign party or interest.

[Alcala] Mr. President, I was in Taiz and met with the deposed Kuwaiti Government. They believe that they will rule their country again with U.S. help. What does President Saddam Husayn think about this?

[Saddam] We say that with the help of God, with the help of the honest sons of the Arab nation and the good people throughout the world, they will never again rule in their country. Only in certain cases, as citizens, perhaps if one of them dies abroad and his relatives ask

that he be buried in Kuwait, in keeping with the norms or traditions of Islamic religion, perhaps we will give them a permit for that.

[Alcala] Mr. President, the idea is to seek a peaceful solution to what has been termed the Gulf crisis. Given that you have already said that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province, what is the negotiating point? What could be negotiated?

[Saddam] When a serious and equitable dialogue is held, then this same dialogue will find the connecting link and the solution.

[Alcala] Mr. President, this is Christmas, a time when we all speak of peace. What is your message for the Spanish-speaking public this Christmas?

[Saddam] My message is for the believers to respect the principles that Jesus Christ preached. All of these believers form a human family, a community. The best believers are those closest to God, those who walk with God, those who do more good works in the world. All of the believers have the same human value in God's eyes.

[Alcala] Mr. President, after this Christmas statement of peace, the inevitable question on the probability of war in the Gulf must be asked. Do you think you can defeat the U.S. Army?

[Saddam] Yes, it will surely be defeated. Do you know why? Because right is not on its side, because, as we have said, the U.S. Army has traveled 10,000 km from the United States to kill a people who live in security and stability. The U.S. Army does not believe in what it is doing and it has no right to do it. Because it has no right to do this, God will never be on its side or support it. For an Army to have faith, it must be right about the cause for which it is fighting. We are not saying we will defeat it because its soldiers are not brave, but because it cannot stand as our equal.

[Alcala] Mr. President, in this crisis in the Gulf in which fortunately not a single shot has been fired in anger, an electronic war, a war of television and newspapers, of statements, is however being carried out. The world has been amazed by your ability to handle the media. How do you think the media have done in this Gulf crisis?

[Saddam] Some of the media have done a good job. They have been very precise and very accurate in portraying the true situation. In the West, the media are always cheating the world public. When the public is deceived, it will never be able to have a correct idea of what is going on. In this case, the media could place some leaders into positions that do not fit reality. Nevertheless, we have found many people who have been fair and equitable, particularly among politicians. I am sure you have learned about statements made by Edward Heath, the former British prime minister.

[Alcala] To conclude, Mr. President, we are about to end 1990 and no date has been set for your interview with

U.S. Secretary of State Baker, and you have not authorized Minister Aziz to go to Washington, either. Do you intend to do it in the near future?

[Saddam] President Bush (?accepted) a date for an interview with Mr. Tariq Aziz, but he later changed his mind. As far as we are concerned, we have decided that the date of the interview will be 12 January, but [words indistinct]. Bush's problem is that he has grown accustomed to deciding on what dates certain leaders of the world will receive American envoys. As far as the Iraqi people are concerned, they reject the idea that their president should receive orders from abroad, or that the dates when certain personalities or envoys should be received have to be determined by other parties. I believe that the Iraqi president has as much right as Bush to decide on what date he will receive personalities or envoys.

[Alcala] Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity.

[Saddam] It is time for prayers. Please return later.

[The interview is interrupted for prayers and later resumed]

[Alcala] Mr. President, the so-called Gulf crisis began four, almost five months ago. This is the worst problem that has ever occurred in the Middle East, in recent times. Never before had so many world powers united against a single country. How can you explain this, Mr. President?

[Saddam] There is a simple explanation to all this: The imbalance that the world has recently experienced. That imbalance prevailed in the past—between the United States and Western countries on one side, and the USSR and former communist countries on the other side. We reached an imbalance between the world powers when the USSR withdrew, leaving the field open to a single power—an uncontrolled power, meaning the White House—in the world.

This case has [words indistinct]. Is this perhaps considered a democratic group or unity? We all know about the bribes that some parties give or offer to other parties. We all know the deals that are flagrantly carried out. We all know how money is transferred from one place to another to buy votes. We all know about the threats, the insinuations, and the constant pressure exerted by certain parties—not to mention what the television, radio, and media are doing, and not to mention the letters, telegrams, and telephone calls that we know nothing about. All this is being done in the open, in a very flagrant way.

Some have paid money for the troops that have come to occupy the Muslims' sacred territories. Others have offered bribes to force some countries to adopt a certain stand, or to use their stand against us.

Everyone knows the power and the strength of the media in the West, and are aware of the influence of these media throughout the world.

Iraq is a small country with very limited information capabilities. In other aspects and fields, it also has very limited capability. That is why much of what our press or other media wrote or broadcast did not reach many countries. However, you can see that in other countries tens of thousands of people, as in France, have demonstrated to demand the withdrawal of French troops from the Arab territories. Some Americans, some of them very well-known, have demonstrated and sent telegrams protesting and asking the United States to withdraw its troops. There were other pronouncements in England and other countries.

If we could imagine the Iraqi media having the same capacity as France, or England, or the same influence, or the same distribution around the world [words indistinct] as Iraq? Let us take the example of Mexico. If we take a poll to determine how many Mexicans read newspapers, or listened to radio stations from England, the United States, or France, or Spain, we would find that millions of Mexicans were reading those newspapers and listening to those stations.

However, how many of those Mexicans listened to Radio Baghdad? Surely, it would be a very small number. Very few of them have listened to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's declarations, or learned of his viewpoints or opinions. Knowing the importance granted to the two sides of the conflict [words indistinct] and the other side, the Arab side, we can see how many [words indistinct] because of the injustice committed against Iraq or the Arabs, and what the opportunities are of world public opinion never knowing the details of the Arabs' cause. For example, the United and Israel for 40 years objected to [words indistinct] in the United Nations and the Security Council. The United States exercised its veto 80 times to prevent the implementation of these resolutions. All these are realities unknown to world public opinion.

[Alcala] Mr. President, you have touched on a very interesting subject. You have mentioned Israel. Relations between the Arab nation and Israel have gone from Nasir wanting to throw the Israelis back into the sea, to Sadat signing a treaty with them. Geographically speaking, Iraq is very near Israel. What is Iraq's position on Israel, on Israel as a country? Can you live with Israel? Can you coexist with Israel?

[Saddam] What is being discussed now is not the issue of coexistence among human beings. I recently said that the Arabs are not chauvinists because the Arab nation is the birthplace of all the religions; all the prophets came from the Arab nation and all the divine revelations occurred in the Arab nation. Therefore, that is not the Arab's problem. It is an issue of human coexistence with Israel, because Israel has occupied Arab territories, usurped Jerusalem, and annexed Jerusalem to the Zionist entity along with the Golan Heights—which is Syrian territory.

Therefore, according to international law and the UN Charter, how can the United States be allowed to use its

veto, as we have said, 80 times to prevent the implementation of resolutions in favor of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinians? How can the United States talk about international law? The crux of the matter for us is that the Arabs have suffered much injustice due to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in the Golan Heights and Palestine, and Israel continues to threaten other countries with the occupation of other territories.

There is another issue, meaning the Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel. You know that there are currently 5 million Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel, and this means that Zionist expansion will take place at the expense of other Arab territories.

We have a good example of this; this is a recent example. In accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Security Council, some Third World countries, among them Cuba and Yemen, tried to introduce a clause to provide protection for those Palestinians who are living under Zionist occupation. It took 84 days for this proposal to be rejected by the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council later approved a very weak resolution on this matter. However, this same UN Security Council, which at times we have described as the U.S. Security Council, approved 12 resolutions against Iraq in half that time. They approved 12 resolutions in 42 days. The most dangerous of the resolutions approved, a kind of resolution never before approved by the Security Council, is the one that authorizes the use of force against Iraq. It was an ultimatum. This was in addition to the resolution authorizing the economic blockade that even included powdered milk and medicines. Today many children and old people are dying because of the lack of certain medicines in Iraq.

And after all this, these same parties that sign such resolutions return to talk about human feelings, human rights, and freedom. They claim to be very civilized, cultured, and part of the free world.

Beside these examples, there is a case of injustice the U.S. White House has committed against people under the influence of Zionism. Forty years ago, millions of Palestinians were expelled from their territory and I am sure that you have seen on the television the tragedy of the Palestinians, how they are facing murder, oppression, deportations, and all manner of injustice. This tragic situation has prompted even Palestinian women and children to throw rocks as a way to resist or reject occupation.

Nevertheless, Bush's conscience was not moved by this situation. He boasts of being humane and democratic. The UN Security Council did not adopt a resolution to end the suffering of the Palestinians either. However, the conscience of Bush, who claims to be so cultured and free, reacts to defend a backward shaykh who has no other interests than his 70 women and \$60 billion. In addition, three of his relatives, his brothers (Javert) and Sa'ad, his prime minister, and Sa'ad's wife have (?\$100 billion).

Bush is willing to defend such people, to defend their corruption and acts of sabotage and their actions against

humanity. Day after day on television he can see the images of the suffering of the Palestinians and those who are living in their territory. He is failing to see the paradox that exists or the contradiction that exists between his posturing or in the resolutions or slogans common in the West [words indistinct] the White House itself.

However, Bush is deploying his troops and his Army to this region [words indistinct] and not only to this region, but everywhere around the world, for a new world war. This will depend on future developments. One of his current slogans is to defend this man, this lowly kind of ruler, because it is a matter of principle for him. Nevertheless, Bush disregarded such principles when he decided to deploy troops to occupy Panama and take their elected president to be tried in the United States.

You people cannot see the duality of his views and hypocrisy or the contradictions involved. You cannot see how principles contradict each other in Bush's mind. Some of the men responsible for Western nations cannot perceive that all this represents an injustice against mankind. They fail to see the falseness of his ideas. The Kuwaiti shaykh used to marry every Thursday. He got to the point where he was unable to distinguish between his wives and daughters. At one time, he happened to like a girl. He asked for her hand and she turned out to be one of his own daughters; he was unable to tell her apart from the others. He was told that this girl was his daughter. This is the kind of ally sought by the United States and Bush, the leader of the mightiest power in the world, a country that has made tremendous progress in other fields. This kind of person and ruler, the shaykh of Kuwait, cannot be permitted to participate in deceiving the Arabs. The shaykh cannot represent the true image of Arabs or the principles of Islam with regard to the proper way to deal with human beings. It is to defend such corrupt people that the United States has sent its troops to be killed. The United States is willing to lead all of mankind to the verge of war and catastrophe.

[Alcala] Mr. President, in the name of Eco, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to talk with you. I would like to ask you one more question, but in such a way that your answer can be only one word. Will there be peace or war in the Middle East in 1991?

[Saddam] We hope that peace can be established. We hope there will be no war. We do not want war. The only way to attain peace is dialogue.

[Alcala] Mr. President, thank you very much for your time and words and for having let us into your thoughts. The truth is that these thoughts are tremendous. This will be all. We wish you a merry Christmas. Thank you.

[Saddam] Thank you very much. I also am happy for this interview and the opportunity to wish the Mexican people a Merry Christmas and a happy new year full of happiness and prosperity.

[Alcala] Same to you, Mr. President.

Saddam Attacks U.S. 'Unjust Campaign'*JN2612075890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT
25 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has addressed a message to the international grouping of peacemakers. The text of the message follows:

From Saddam Husayn to the international grouping of peacemakers. I am addressing you from Baghdad, the city of peace, from Iraq, the land of Mesopotamia and the cradle of the father of the prophet, Abraham, and from the land of Hammurabi, the father of laws. I greet you and peace be upon you and all humanity.

Our voice, which comes to you from the East, traverses a great deal, grudge and injustice, fanned every day by regimes and rulers possessed by Satan and dominated by evil. As a result, they have not only mercilessly plundered peoples' wealth, but also distorted international norms and laws. They have also brainwashed people with false propaganda in a way previously unknown to mankind.

Our people in Iraq have been exposed to an unjust campaign led by U.S. President George Bush and supported by world Zionism, and an economic blockade that has deprived us of even medicines and baby milk. Moreover, he has massed armies on our borders—armies that have come thousands of miles to reach us. He has also brought the most modern technology of death and destruction to oppress the will of our people, who have decided to defend their legitimate rights and to be deserving of their glorious history, the culture and aspirations of their nation, and the values of principles that God wanted to be. What is this aggressive troop concentration by the evil advocates for?

It is for the oil shaykhs, who belong to the ages of backwardness and decline and who have been hired by the evil advocates as guards of the wells of the oil companies in order to plunder them and through them to control the world.

We wonder: Are we living in an age in which oil has become more important than human life, its high values, and the noble principles which God wanted to be and which His prophets pursued? How far will greed lead these regimes and rulers, who no longer distinguish other than their personal interests and who no longer control their anger and grudges.

As we approach the end of the 20th century, we recall the millions of Palestinians who have been homeless for more than 40 years, and whose cause and the severe injustice inflicted on them are known to every international circle or meeting. Scores of resolutions have been issued by the United Nations and the Security Council in their favor, but none of them has been implemented due to the American administrations' injustice, their alliance with Zionism, their indifference to the will of the international community, and their use of pressure, terrorism, bribery, and double standards.

Finally, I hope that all those in the world whose conscience is clear will remember that injustice breeds war and that peace can be achieved only through equitable dialogue that is aimed at realizing justice. Wishing you a happy year and your grouping every success.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 25 December 1990.

Saddam Says 'Pan-Arab Principles' at Issue*JN2512174790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the battle is now taking place in the name of the entire Arab nation. He said this battle was not an Iraqi one at the start and will not be Iraqi at the end, neither in the viewpoint of Iraq nor in that of those massing troops against it. His excellency stated: Although this battle affirms principles within the pan-Arab framework, it goes beyond this to a general human framework. The basis of this battle is the pan-Arab principles of the sons of the one Arab nation and the message of this battle is a general, human one.

During a meeting with a delegation from the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA], which includes a number of Palestinian and professional parties and organizations, his excellency added: The meeting with the sons of the one nation, in terms of struggle and jihad, has a special meaning and flavor. The most important point in this regard that none of you have shown solidarity with truth on the basis of an individual gain or outlook, but on the basis of pan-Arab principles and interests.

His excellency the leader president said: Palestine is Arab, and should be liberated with the help of God. If it is not liberated, every honorable believer will continue to be targeted, even inside his own home. This is because Zionism will remain anxious and because the U.S.-Zionist alliance will continue to exist on the basis of an obsession that the Arabs are planning to liberate Palestine.

His excellency said: We want to liberate Palestine to live in security and to add another decisive factor to the ones that determine our humanity and our independent course.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Envoys Recalled To Meet With Foreign Ministry*NC2512164390 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT
25 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Dec 25 (AFP)—Senior Foreign Ministry officials here were Tuesday conducting a series of consultations with at least six Iraqi ambassadors, notably

those to the United States and United Nations, on developments in the Gulf crisis, an informed source said.

"This series of consultations aims at close examination of the Gulf situation and of reevaluating Iraq's position," in light of international developments, the source said.

The meetings here which include the ambassadors to Washington, the United Nations, Moscow, London, Vienna and Paris, "could last several days," the source said.

The Jordanian daily SAWT AL-SHA'B reported Tuesday that the decision by Iraq to recall many of its overseas envoys heralds a new Iraqi peace offensive. [passage omitted]

Citizen Response to Evacuation Drill Hailed

JN2512145390 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
23 Dec 90 p 4

[Excerpt] Diyala—On the morning of the day before yesterday [21 December], Diyala Governorate received 1,300,000 citizens, who had been evacuated from East Baghdad neighborhoods in the largest evacuation drill carried out in anticipation of the aggression that the United States is harboring against our struggling people and country.

Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, Diyala governor and head of the higher civil defense committee at the Governorate, supervised the reception of citizens in the areas designated for that purpose. Meanwhile, Diyala citizens received their guests from Baghdad in their homes, which had been prepared for this in advance.

In statements to AL-THAWRAH, Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said the citizens' response to this drill was excellent, and reflected a high degree of awareness about the threats of the aggression. He hailed the distinguished efforts of the various departments in Diyala Governorate to render the drill a success.

The Diyala governor told AL-THAWRAH that reception areas were prepared and necessary facilities provided in record time. Drinking water, tents, and ambulances were provided, as well as transportation which provided a quick evacuation of citizens from the reception area to the areas where they would be quartered. [passage omitted]

Additional Drills Said Planned

NC2512143590 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Dec 25 (AFP)—Some four million Iraqis are awaiting orders to evacuate Baghdad in a civil defense drill that Western diplomats believe is to show Iraq's adversaries abroad that the country is ready for war.

No date has been set for the complete evacuation, which will follow a partial escape exercise last Friday, but there are reports that the maneuver will take place December 29.

In the meantime, Iraqi newspapers, radio and television implore the population to remain vigilant ahead of a feared U.S. attack, which could come in mid-January.

Authorities here have vowed to ignore a January 15 United Nations Security Council deadline, after which a U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf will be authorized to launch a military strike to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

On Sunday east Baghdad was blacked out for 10 minutes as sirens wailed in what civil defense officials said was an exercise to make the capital "indistinct" to U.S. bombers.

Seven hundred training centers have been set up, according to military sources, where for the past three weeks students and adults have been instructed on what to do in case of attack.

But Western diplomats say such efforts have a psychological rather than a strategic purpose, and experts doubt that four million people can be evacuated from Baghdad in one day.

The goal, they believe, is to convince both the Iraqi population and the world that President Saddam Husayn and his planners are ready for war. [passage omitted]

Distribution of 800,000 Gas Masks Said Planned

JN2612142390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1400 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] A source at the Iraqi Information Ministry has said that the Iraqi authorities are preparing to distribute gas masks to 800,000 [government] employees. It is not known yet whether the distribution will include all Iraqi citizens.

Paper Says U.S. Cannot Dictate All Terms

JN2512121890 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 25, INA—The Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said here today that time is running out, who say so? [sentence as received] Peace can always be saved but all it needs is courage. The U.S. Administration has to realise that there is no loss of face in admitting the error of the rush for war or in opening the door for just, equitable peace dialogue, not based on a set of preconditions but on sincere goodwill and respect for other nations.

The reason for the stalled peace talks lie in the persistence of the U.S. Administration in dictating its own terms and dates for dialogue. It is quite logical that the presidents of the two countries directly concerned to set the dates convenient for them to meet with each other's envoy. As it is the right of President George Bush to set the date for his meeting with Iraqi foreign minister, so is the right of President Saddam Husayn to set the date for his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state.

This is the idea, but if the U.S. wants to keep insisting on its own terms, then it will be closing the door to peace. If the U.S. believes it can intimidate Iraq into acquiescing, it will be making a great unforgivable mistake.

While the world celebrates this holy occasion of Christmas, the gloom of war overshadows the joy of the moment. However, the good people of the world should not sit on the fence and watch for the knells of death to take their toll, but try their best to create an atmosphere where they can anticipate the bells of peace jingling the joy of celebration. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God".

Editorial Says Bush Will Lose Everything in War

JN2512104190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has asked: How many soldiers of Bush's army will return if he attacks Iraq?

In an editorial today, the paper says: We address this question to Bush directly. It does not matter if he has asked himself this question or consulted the U.S. Congress in this regard. In any event, he will be forced to ask and answer this question. This is because even the calculations of those who expect that 40,000 American soldiers will die in the first week of fighting are wrong, especially since the victims of the American aggression and the brutal American measures will find in the military fighting, if it takes place, an opportunity to inflict the historical punishment on Bush's criminal administration.

The paper calls on Bush to be frank with his people and at the same time to answer the following question: How many soldiers of his forces and those of his allies in the evildoers grouping will remain in the first month of fighting, how many will remain in the second month, and how many will remain in the third month? It adds: If he cannot find a clear answer to this question, then we tell him that those who remain will be a few insane or semi-insane soldiers who had been able to escape the furnace of the battle, not to survive, but to tell generations about the harm inflicted on them by Bush's insistence on aggression and by the U.S. President's false pride and empty arrogance. Only then will Bush be forced to answer the many questions he has heard in the past months and is still hearing almost every day. In the forefront of these questions is why he is massing all these forces when America's interests are not threatened, and when no one has denied America or deprived the world of the oil that he wanted to protect?

The paper points out that Bush is gambling with America's reputation and its international position, and is also gambling with hundreds of thousands of its sons in a losing aggression, especially since it is an aggression that is not based on any just cause, legitimate right, or clear objective. It is merely another aggression of a series of aggressions the Bush administration has carried out against several peoples and states on empty pretexts, and to achieve the goals of Bush himself, the oil and money

families, and the evil desires. This is why the American President will this time find that his unsuccessful adventure is unprecedented, because he will lose everything at once. He will come out of it with fatal wounds, a defeated army of dead soldiers, allies with toppled thrones, agents with chopped heads, and with a burning heart on America's most vulnerable nerve in the region, the Zionist entity, which will receive a share of punishment that will please the believers.

Concluding, the paper says: Let Bush ask himself again and again: How many of his army's soldiers will return if he carries out an aggression against Iraq—the Iraq of the faithful grouping that is ready and longing for the great fighting in the crucial battle? Let Bush ask himself again and again and search thoroughly for the clear answer or answers that would lead him to the right course to save himself from the ordeal of entering the land of sanctities.

Paper Says War Will Be 'Long,' 'Very Costly'

JN2612124190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT
26 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has warned the United States and its allies that war against Iraq will be long and very costly. In its editorial today, the paper says: The illusion Bush is trying to peddle to the Americans and his evil allies who are tempted by war is only a heresy based on shameful lies.

The paper affirms that the list of American, Atlantic, and Zionist human losses will exceed all expectations, and the American forces will, in the end, be totally defeated.

The paper refers to the blatant arrogance of the adventurers of the White House and the Pentagon—arrogance that has reached the point of madness and derangement and is disclosed by the series of vile and aggressive statements by Bush, Baker, Cheney, and the other war maniacs and advocates.

The paper also says that this reveals the psychological and morale impact of this difficult crisis on Bush and indicates the confusion that casts its shadows on his superficial thinking and his reckless behavior.

The paper then wonders: Do Bush and senior Pentagon officials really believe that war with Iraq will be as easy as they imagine? It says: Bush's administration is wagering on the forces and war machines he has massed in a land that, even in the best conditions, will not be a friendly one. Nevertheless, Iraq will fight with more than 1 million soldiers, who are well trained and armed with experience, faith, right, and belief, and who will defend their land among their people and within their nation.

Concluding, the paper stresses that Bush will see how much blood he will pay as the price for averting facts under the pressure of his arrogance, personal illusions, and evil goals. He will also see where war will lead him—a war whose eruption he boasts he can time against steadfast Iraq.

Court Recommends Deportation of Hamas Members

TA2512113190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] The military appeals committee decided that the deportation orders against four Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from the Gaza Strip are justified and recommended that the deportations be carried out according to the order. The committee, in its 43-page report, found that the four Palestinians were senior activists in Hamas and had taken part in incitement and violence against residents of the state and security forces in the Gaza Strip.

The head of the Army's Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, said he accepts the committee's recommendation. The four Hamas activists were given 48 hours to appeal to the High Court of Justice. Their attorneys said an appeal will be filed.

The High Court of Justice has never accepted an appeal against deportation. If these four orders are upheld, it will bring to 61 the number of Palestinians deported since the beginning of the intifadah.

Two Gazans Killed After Attacking Soldiers

TA2612153990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] In the Gaza Strip today, a knife-wielding Arab youth was shot and killed after attacking an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol on duty on al-Nasir Street in Gaza. Three soldiers were injured. Two are in moderate condition and were evacuated to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The third soldier suffered slight injuries and was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The soldiers' families were notified.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1530 GMT on 26 December adds: "During the initiated activity of an IDF unit in Rafah this afternoon, a masked man who tried to attack the soldiers with an ax was shot and seriously injured. He was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he died of his wounds."]

Three Jewish 'Terrorists' Released From Prison

TA2612084590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] In Ma'asiyahu Prison, the last three members of the Jewish terrorist organization are being released. They are Menahem Livni, Sha'ul Nir, and 'Uzi Sharbaf, who were originally sentenced to life in prison but served only a seven-year term. They were convicted of murdering three youths in the Islamic College in Hebron and of attacking and wounding the mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah.

Their period of imprisonment was reduced three times by the state president. About two weeks ago, a release

commission, headed by a justice, decided to deduct one-third of their prison term, despite objections by the state attorney.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that at this moment demonstrations are being staged at the prison gates by two parties: the settlers, led by Rabbi Levinger from Qiryat Arba', who are singing and dancing, and the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and Shinuy, with Knesset Members Amnon Rubinstein, Yosi Sarid, and Dedi Zucker in attendance.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman has welcomed the release of the Jewish terrorist underground prisoners and hoped they could pursue the development of the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, for whose sake they carried out the acts which led to their imprisonment. Professor Ne'eman told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the criticism leveled at the release is sheer hypocrisy.

This morning the High Court of Justice rejected an appeal, filed by journalist Gid'on Spiro, against the release of the last three underground prisoners. Our legal affairs correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that a High Court of Justice judge rejected the appeal because it was filed too late.

Senior Sources Say Military on 'Red Alert'

TA2512054390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
25 Dec 90 pp A1, 6

[Report by Eytan Rabin, 'Aqiva Eldar, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] A senior military source said yesterday that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Air Force are at a red alert similar to the customary alert on the eve of war. According to him, Israel is taking no chances, and the IDF will retaliate as soon as Israel is attacked. On Sunday, senior Army sources estimated that Iraq may attack Israel with missiles. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 25 December reports: "The IDF has increased its state of alert and reinforced its deployment along the eastern border. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent, who added that the IDF's alert is now higher than ever.

"[A senior Air Force officer has said that it has been years since the corps was as ready for war as now. He added that the Air Force is ready on every level: operations, preparation, equipment absorption, and nonconventional warfare capability."]

Arens Says Level of Alert Continues Unchanged

TA2512133790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel has not raised its level of alertness recently. He asserted that Israel has maintained a constant state of readiness and

alertness for over four months and that nothing has changed in the last few days.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that during a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Arens pointed out that Israel had not monitored any significant signs in recent days that could lead us to conclude that the situation had changed.

Arens said that King Husayn would prefer not to get involved in any war, but he fears that he would be dragged into it. The defense minister noted that there is currently no significant deployment of Iraqi forces near the border with Jordan.

Arens stressed that Iraq's capability to hit at the Israeli rear was extremely limited and he asserted that we are prepared for any attacks on the home front. He stated, however, that there was no need to drive the public crazy, as he put it, and cause panic.

Minister Rules Out First Strike Against Iraq

TA2512122290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav today revealed that Israel has promised not to attack Iraq first. The minister stressed that Israel faces the danger of war, but will do all in its power not to become involved in hostilities in spite of Saddam Husayn.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the transportation minister made his statements at the village of Julis, where he received an honorary award from the Druze community.

Shamir Says Iraqi Missile Attack Possible

TA2612114990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel has to take into account the possibility that an Iraqi missile might penetrate Israeli airspace. In an interview with the Voice of Israel, the prime minister felt that the rising tension in the region stemmed from the approach of the January 15 deadline.

The premier also did not think that a Jordanian-Iraqi front against Israel was being formed, but pointed out that anything was possible in this region.

Paper Reports Secret Talks Between U.S., Iraq

TA2612122290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Dec 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will probably go to Baghdad on 9 January for meetings with Iraqi

President Saddam Husayn, in a last ditch effort to reach a compromise on the Gulf crisis. This was learned from a report which reached Jerusalem through Israeli diplomats. The report is based on talks held with their U.S. colleagues.

The report states that clandestine talks are apparently taking place between the United States and Iraq. The expected scenario is that during an upcoming session of the Iraqi parliament, Saddam Husayn will propose that the Security Council adopt a new proposal that will link the withdrawal from Kuwait with the resolution of the Palestinian problem. He will take the same opportunity to invite Baker for talks in Baghdad to end the conflict.

Senior political sources in Washington made it clear to Israeli representatives that Baker will agree to go to Baghdad on that date, in spite of its proximity to the deadline in the Security Council ultimatum.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is currently in France. A report received in Jerusalem said that he told his European interlocutors that were the EC to make it clear to Iraq that it would be willing to move forward on the Palestinian issue, the chances of resolving the Gulf crisis would improve. The EC leaders decided not to hold meetings with Iraqi representatives as long as the Iraqis are not meeting with U.S. officials. On 3 January, however, the EC Chairmanship will change hands, and the new leading troika may reevaluate its position regarding negotiations with Saddam Husayn.

The talks with Baker in Baghdad, if they indeed take place, may affect the visit of Assistant Secretary of State Dennis Ross, who is supposed to come to Israel to discuss the resumption of the peace process. The report which reached Israel from the embassy in Washington says that Ross intends to come to Israel on 7 January (two days before Baker's meeting in Baghdad). During a meeting with sources at the Israeli Embassy, one of Ross' aides asserted that new ideas for resuming the peace process will be raised during the talks.

Political sources in Jerusalem stressed that the nature of these ideas is still unknown. However, on the basis of the talks between Secretary of State Baker and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir two weeks ago, the U.S. State Department may be formulating a proposal that Israel hold municipal elections in the territories in parallel with the attempts to establish a dialogue with the Arab countries.

These ideas were brought up after it transpired that the United States understands the difficulty in finding a Palestinian partner for talks with Israel at the present time. Political sources in Washington believe that new municipal elections in the territories may supply new faces for conducting a political dialogue with Israel in the future toward implementing autonomy in the territories.

TV Reports on Prince Hasan KYODO Interview

*JN2612094690 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has welcomed holding any inter-Arab meeting, provided there is determination to change the war psychology in order to give the diplomatic option for resolving the Gulf crisis all available chances. He said that unconditional withdrawal should lead to a direct understanding between the two parties to the dispute, Iraq and Kuwait.

He said that the foreign troop deployment was intended to secure the defense of Saudi Arabia, and this has been achieved. He expressed hope that the presence of these huge forces in the region is another kind of diplomacy.

In an interview with the Japanese KYODO news agency, his highness the crown prince said that the diplomacy of exchanging accusations and stinging words as well as discussing more comprehensive issues, including the possibility of Israeli involvement, which would mean overall war in the Middle East region, are not stipulated in the UN resolutions, and are also not part of the world's overall economic strategy or political vision after the cold war.

His highness the crown prince said that the United States is taking a tough position in adopting political and military decisions on behalf of its allies until 15 January. Despite this, he said, this intransigence should not prevent Baghdad and Washington from holding direct talks. The two sides are escalating the war of words and exchange of sharp personal accusations, and are announcing, at the same time, that they do not rule out direct talks. Also, he added, everyone is waiting to see what will happen after 15 January, which seems to be the final deadline to which the United States has committed itself on behalf of its allies.

His highness said: We still share with Algeria the hope that differences between Iraq and Kuwait will be contained within the framework of an intra-Arab dialogue, pointing out that in the crisis the possibility of an Israeli participation in a more comprehensive conflict exists. He added: This confirms what we have said over the past three months, that unless there is direct concentration on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, it will be difficult to avert a situation that is characterized by violence and general instability in the entire Middle East region.

His highness also pointed out that contacts between Jordan and the Algerian leadership are continuing while accusations and counteraccusations are escalating with the approach of the deadline, after which there may be military action. He also stressed the need to continue active discussions in Europe and the U.S. Congress to avert military action. He added that the Iraqis have committed themselves to the principle of withdrawal in discussions between the Iraqi leadership and numerous international figures who visited Baghdad. He then

stressed the need for a dignified response to and an official echo of this viewpoint.

His highness the crown prince said that the U.S. secretary of state's statements that partial withdrawal is not an alternative to complete withdrawal may hamper even the partial withdrawal. His highness also said that if a partial or a complete withdrawal begins, talks should begin with the start of the withdrawal. He said that the problem of regional borders is not restricted to Iraq and Kuwait, but also concerns most of the Gulf states, be it the land or sea borders. Regarding Jordan's position if war breaks out, his highness said that Jordan would defend its sovereignty against any aggressors. Jordan, he added, is not a passage for military aggression.

Asked about the seriousness of President Saddam Husayn's recurrent threats that he will strike Israel if his country is the target of any U.S. aggression, his highness said: The possibility of the conflict spreading to encompass the entire region is a reality that heralds danger, and we have incessantly cautioned against it since 2 August. The international community realized the seriousness of this state of affairs only after such threats were made and after Iraq insisted on the linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian cause. The international community then exerted many efforts. However, these efforts are not commensurate with the attention that this cause in particular deserves. His highness said he hopes that the international community would give more attention to the Palestinian cause.

His highness said: We have repeatedly warned that if a war erupts as a result of blocking the road to all options except that of Iraq's unconditional and complete withdrawal, which in reality will be complete surrender, then the result will be a devastating war.

In reply to a question on Jordan's current relationship with the United States and Saudi Arabia, his highness said: I believe that there is an ongoing dialogue with the United States. The question is not whether we are with them, or against them because through our search for democracy and social justice we find that we have many common values with them. We are not against the United States. However, we clearly differ with it in terms of opinion and approach. From this premise, we did not participate in the multinational force because we believe that war is not the only option through which the issue of the occupation and the annexation of Kuwait could be solved. We believe that the possibility of its solution can be found in the U.S. acceptance of a peaceful settlement of this problem. Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath said the same thing recently.

His highness said that continuing to say that beginning negotiations with Iraq represents a conciliatory gesture toward it makes us feel uncomfortable when the international community asks us to enter into negotiations with Israel and does not consider this as a conciliatory gesture toward it. His highness added that he supports what Mr. Heath has said, that there is a difference

between the principle of conciliation and the humanitarian logic that prevents the eruption of a very costly war.

As for the relationship with Saudi Arabia, his highness affirmed that it is not normal that Jordan and Saudi Arabia should not enjoy cordial good relations.

In reply to a question on his assessment of the recent UN Security Council resolution on the Palestinian cause, his highness said: If what is intended in the question is a legal assessment, then the reference to the international conference was not contained in the body of the resolution but was kept separate in a statement issued by the UN Security Council president. This gives the impression that this is merely a symbolic reference to the possibility of holding the conference. With this meaning in mind, it can be viewed as a compromise solution between the U.S. desire of not rewarding Iraq with a linkage of the two causes and the nonaligned countries' basic demand to include a reference to a peace conference. His highness added: The second remark is that this resolution referred to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 but failed to mention UN Security Council Resolutions 465 and 478 on the Israeli settlements and the city of Jerusalem. In spite of this, it is a step in the right direction. His highness said he hopes that this step will be further developed.

On Jordan's economic problems, his highness explained that Jordan will hold a roundtable conference on 5 January to discuss its economic state of affairs and the impact the Gulf crisis has had on it. His highness said he has great appreciation for, and is deeply moved by the fact that Japan has been the first country among the other countries in the world to have responded to Jordan's needs. His highness added that the Japanese Government and the governments of the European countries which participated in the 17 November meeting know very well that there is a big difference between the size of the assistance that the international group had promised Jordan, estimated at \$1.4 billion for 1991 and the meager amount Jordan has received from this assistance, totalling \$200 million. His highness said: This is a great source of worry to us.

Paper Says Syria Affirms Military Support

JN2412101090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Dec 90 pp 1, 15

[By Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Informed sources have described Prime Minister Mudar Badran's recent visit to Damascus as successful and useful. According to the sources, the visit was aimed at continuing contacts on cooperation between the two sisterly countries, which has been enhanced by the guidelines of the higher Jordanian-Syrian committee and the visits exchanged between the prime ministers of the two countries.

The sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that during Badran's 6-hour meeting with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, they discussed all aspects of the current Arab situation, specifically the situation in the Arabian Gulf. The sources said that Badran explained to President al-Asad Jordan's principled and constant position on the Gulf crisis. According to the same sources, the prime minister explained Jordan's economic difficulties as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq. Badran stated Jordan's position calling for a peaceful solution of the crisis to spare the region disasters. Badran noted that Jordan's policy calls for resolving every inter-Arab dispute through dialogue.

The sources said that the prime minister explained to the Syrian president the threats posed to Jordan, which has the longest line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy. He also told him of the damage that could be inflicted on Jordan as a result of any war in the region or any Israeli aggression.

The sources said that President al-Asad affirmed that Syria will not tolerate any threat to Jordan and that his country's military power is for the defense of Syria, Jordan, and any Arab country that might come under aggression. He added in this regard that Syria will not allow Iraq's military power to be destroyed, and called for bolstering cooperation between Damascus and Amman in various fields, especially in military fields, to repel any possible aggression and to counter challenges.

Iraqi UN Envoy Says U.S. Blocking Peace Plan

JN2412213090 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Iraq has recalled its ambassadors in Washington, Paris, London, and Moscow. Iraq said it recalled the ambassadors for consultations. No details were yet available. Iraq's United Nations' Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari also left for Baghdad. During a short stopover in Amman, Mr. al-Anbari accused the United States of escalating the situation in the Gulf. He said the United States was pressuring the Gulf Arab states in order to block an Arab solution. The ambassador said he was confident that a peaceful settlement could still be worked out.

[Begin recording] [Al-Anbari, in progress] ...still believe eventually that a peaceful settlement will be worked out, simply because the region as such simply cannot carry out any war unless someone is mad. As you know, in the Gulf region, almost every mile you have an oil installation, either a refinery, a petrochemical plant, a gas tank, a degassing station, and so on and so forth. So, any bullets that would fly there would kill even the bird in the sky.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Ambassador, is there any sort of initiative actively going on right now, or any sort of contacts, either direct and indirect, between Iraqis and Americans?

[Al-Anbari] Well, as you know the President Bush proposal for meetings on the level of foreign ministers and

presidents of the two countries are still standing, and we are still willing to meet in accordance with appropriate dates as well as you know. The president of Algeria is having the sort of honor to continue his mediation; and given how seasoned the Algerian diplomats and Algerian diplomacy is, there is a good prospect, I believe, that might lead to a peaceful settlement if the United States would refrain from exercising pressure on the Gulf countries to refuse any peaceful settlement.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Al-Anbari] [words indistinct] The culprit really is America. America is not only not seeking peaceful settlement, but preventing the immediate parties concerned in the Arab world from accepting such a settlement.

UK's Grant Arrives from Iraq With RCC Warning

LD2312130290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1254 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] British and American interests worldwide will be attacked if the allied forces launch an assault on Iraqi forces in Kuwait, according to a warning issued to Labour MP [member of Parliament] Bernie Grant by members of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] in Baghdad today.

Tottenham MP Mr. Grant has just arrived in Amman after spending six days in Iraq. He said that what he heard from Iraqi officials and private citizens was "quite chilling". Mr. Grant said: "The message quite clearly from the Revolutionary Command Council is that the Iraqis are prepared for conflict, although they want peace.

"They have said to me that President Bush can start a war but he cannot finish a war and he has no control as to where it might spread.

"If the Iraqis are attacked by Americans and other forces they have told me that they can promise that the war will

not be confined to the Middle East but that American and British interests anywhere in the world will be attacked.

Mr. Grant, who returns to Britain tomorrow, said the Iraqi officials gave no further details.

Ministry Reaffirms Need for Further Diplomacy

JN2512085490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has stated that Jordan is committed to the peace option, which is in line with the positions it adopted as principles in 1967 for attaining a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This arises from its belief in the principles of international legitimacy, which one should abide by and constantly work with to protect security and peace in the region and the world.

The source said that Jordan—its leadership and people—is determined to confront any attempts to harm its sovereignty and violate its regional safety. The source said that Jordan is determined to pursue its vital role as a basic factor of stability of the region and as a source of moderation within it, especially since developments and events have confirmed the soundness of the Jordanian leadership's course and the wisdom of its policy.

The source added that Jordan believes it is still possible to reach a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis if the various parties act on the basis of a sincere desire to avert a catastrophe from the region and avoid the tragic consequences of a military confrontation.

The source concluded by saying that the region is in dire need now of persistent action to ease tension, and for Israel to abandon its extremist and convulsive policies, which are exacerbating and complicating an already-tense situation that is having a negative impact on all countries and people in the region.

Prime Minister Outlines Goals for New Government*NC2412205390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Interview with Prime Minister-Designate 'Umar Karami by unidentified reporter in Beirut on 24 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, do you expect opposition from certain parties to the formation of the new government?

[Karami] In compliance with the al-Ta'if document and the statement issued by the Council of Ministers on 11 July calling on all parties to join the legitimate government in pursuing the march of national accord; in order to save Lebanon in a sound and effective way; and in order to achieve national reconciliation, dissolve the militias, collect arms, build a modern state, and initiate the process of development and construction—to achieve all these goals this government has been formed. We all recognize the sensitivity of the circumstances we are passing through and the need for utmost speed in taking all steps necessary to achieve these goals. Therefore, we strongly believe that all parties will participate in this government to achieve these lofty national goals.

[Reporter] When will this government hold its first meeting?

[Karami] As soon as possible, God willing.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Appointments to Karami Government Announced*NC2412202690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1922 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Statement by Prime Minister-Designate 'Umar Karami in Beirut on 24 December—recorded]

[Text] Praise be to God: As we had promised, the decree on the formation of the new government has been issued. I will read out the decree:

Decree No. 861 on the formation of the government:

The president of the republic, in accordance with the Constitution, particularly Article 53, and in accordance with Decree No. 860 of 24 December 1990 appointing 'Umar Karami as prime minister, and in accordance with the prime minister's proposal, has issued the following decree:

Article I:

The following appointments have been made:

Michel al-Murr has been appointed deputy prime minister and minister of national defense;

Nazih al-Bizri has been appointed minister of state;

Khatchig Babikian has been appointed minister of justice;

Jamil Kibbi has been appointed minister of health and social affairs;

Michel Sasin has been appointed minister of labor;

George Sa'adah has been appointed minister of telecommunications and post;

'Ali al-Khalil has been appointed minister of finance;

Butrus Harb has been appointed minister of education and fine arts;

Muhammad Yusuf Baydun has been appointed minister of hydroelectric resources;

Marwan Hamadah has been appointed minister of economy and trade;

Nabih Birri has been appointed minister of state;

Walid Junblatt has been appointed minister of state;

Albert Mansur has been appointed minister of information;

Muhsin Dallul has been appointed minister of agriculture;

Zahir al-Khatib has been appointed minister of state for administrative reform;

Nadim Salim has been appointed minister of public works and transport;

Muhammad Jarudi has been appointed minister of industry and oil;

Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib has been appointed minister of interior;

Shawqi Fakhuri has been appointed minister of state for land, sea, and air transport affairs;

Niqula al-Khuri has been appointed minister of state;

Agop Zukhatarian has been appointed minister of state for environmental affairs;

'Abdallah al-Amin has been appointed minister of state;

As'ad Hardan has been appointed minister of state;

Muhammad Baydun has been appointed minister of housing and cooperatives;

Faris Buwayz has been appointed minister of foreign and expatriates affairs;

Samir Ja'ja' has been appointed minister of state;

Elie Hubayqah has been appointed minister of state;

Sulayman Tony Franjiyah has been appointed minister of state; and

Talal Arslan has been appointed minister of tourism.
Article II

This decree shall be published and shall take immediate effect.

Cabinet Labeled 'Too Pro-Syrian'

NC2512104590 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT
25 Dec 90

[Text] Beirut, Dec 25 (AFP)—The powerful Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia on Tuesday warned that the country's proposed new cabinet was too pro-Syrian and represented a threat to peace moves in the country.

LF official Tawfiq al-Hindi said the 30-member national unity cabinet announced late Monday by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami was "unbalanced," adding: "the peace process cannot continue under such conditions."

LF leader Samir Ja'ja, appointed a minister of the state by Mr. Karami, refused to accept his post, charging that the cabinet did not truly reflect the views of the Christian community.

But Mr. al-Hindi assured in an interview with AFP that the LF "does not plan to take the initiative for a new recourse to arms."

The proposed cabinet includes 15 Christians and 15 Muslims and represents all factions of Lebanese political life.

But the LF, along with its political ally, the Kata'b Party, maintain that most of the Christians are either pro-Syrian or hostile to the Lebanese Forces.

The LF is seeking at least 10 Christian ministers who share their opposition to the Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

Lebanese militias, including the LF, recently agreed to comply with a government plan to reunite Beirut under the authority of the regular Lebanese Army.

The militias abandoned military positions in the capital, where they had been fighting one another since 1975, and withdrew to regions beyond the city and its suburbs.

By terms of an Arab-brokered peace plan, approved by the Lebanese parliament in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia in October 1989, the militias are to disband entirely by March 21, 1991.

Phalangist Leader Comments on New Government

NC2512220090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 2035 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] A meeting to prepare for a national conference ended in Ghidras at 2145. The meeting, which began at 1830, was attended by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja, Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah, Minister Michel Sasin, former Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, a delegation from the National Liberal Party led by former Deputy [name indistinct], Phalangist Party Secretary General Roger Dib, Political Bureau member Dr. Ibrahim Najjar, Antoine Najm [not further identified], Lebanese Forces Command Council members Nadir Sukkar and Dr. Tawfiq Hindi, a delegation from the al-Tanzim Party, a

delegation from the Guardians of the Cedar Party, a delegation from the Solidarity Movement, the secretary general of the Tashnag Party, a delegation from the Maronite League, and former Minister George Afram.

The meeting, which lasted for approximately three hours, focused on the serious and delicate developments in the country, particularly after the declaration of the de facto government. It has been learned that there was full understanding on the future measures to be taken at all levels, including those regarding future meetings and the positions to be adopted. Speaking after the meeting, Phalangist Party leader Dr. Sa'adah answered questions:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Dr. Sa'adah, we would like to ask you about this three-hour-long meeting held in the wake of the announcement of the composition of the government. You have already declared that the intention is not to take part in the government. Was a decision to this effect made during the meeting?

[Sa'adah] Originally the meeting was not intended to make decisions but to inform everyone of the situation we are in and to learn the views and positions of all parties. We discussed all these issues, and each group will go back to the party or organization it represents to convey the views expressed at the meeting. In turn, we will get in touch with our colleagues the ministers to learn their views and to coordinate with them. Several meetings will follow. As for our position, we expressed it before the composition of the government was announced and we defined our specifications. We said that we would not take part in any government that lacked a national and political balance. At any rate, the party will convene to make the appropriate decision in light of its former decision.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] specific decision?

[Sa'adah] No, contacts are under way and they will involve everyone. In the end, the position will reflect the people's will.

[Correspondent] Do you believe Dr. Ja'ja' and Mr. Sasin (?share) the same view?

[Sa'adah] We had the same views during the meeting.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Sa'adah] It is natural that the meetings and contacts with those we met tonight and others will continue. As I just said, among those we will meet or contact are our colleagues, the ministers in the present government.

[Correspondent] You talked about balance, but did not mention the sectarian balance.

[Sa'adah] I said national and political balance, and these two include all balances.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Sa'adah] We are [word indistinct] the expanded government, and our position and statement on this subject are clear.

[Correspondent] Is the inclination against taking part in the government?

[Sa'adah] We in the party have made our position clear. Last night I made a statement that the party is opposed to taking part in a government of this kind, which does not satisfy our specifications. Now the Phalangist position will be in harmony with that of all the powers with whom we have met and will meet.

[Correspondent] Was this a preliminary meeting?

[Sa'adah] Yes, it was a preliminary meeting because of the time factor. Perhaps an invitation will be sent to those who should have been invited today.

[Correspondent] Will you invite Hizballah to take part in future meetings?

[Sa'adah] If Hizballah would come to such a meeting. The door to dialogue is open to everybody.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that without the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces, the parties and forces in the eastern area can carry on their work?

[Sa'adah] This question should be addressed to those who formed the government.

[Correspondent] Are we on the threshold of a boycott of the government?

[Sa'adah] It would be premature to say that. The final position will be announced after the contacts I have referred to are completed.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Sa'adah] Of course.

[Correspondent] During the process of forming the government, there were security pressures in the al-Matn region, the latest being the assassination of Kafr Shima district officer. In view of your opposition to the government, do you think the pressures will increase?

[Sa'adah] The pressures and violations in the two al-Matn regions preceded the formation of the government. We have been talking about this for some time. The current situation cannot continue, not in the two al-Matn region and not in any other Lebanese area. If it does, all of our earlier achievements will be erased.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Sa'adah] If that is the purpose, then these pressures will achieve the opposite. We do not give in to pressure or blackmail. We are a party that struggles for the sake of the Lebanese issue. We will be wherever the Lebanese national interests lie, irrespective of any pressure or blackmail.

[Correspondent] What party is applying this pressure?

[Sa'adah] The parties are known, and we are working on this issue from all aspects. The statement by the party's political bureau in this respect is very clear. We asked the state, the legitimacy, to carry out its duties in full. We cannot accept seeing the peace march, to which we have contributed a great deal, being murdered through the ongoing violations.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] do you think they threaten the Greater Beirut march?

[Sa'adah] They threaten peace and security in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Is tomorrow's strike [words indistinct]?

[Sa'adah] It is a first step, and we hope we will not be forced to take other escalatory measures. We cannot remain silent over the slaughter of our women who have absolutely nothing to do with what is happening. A Phalangist is not born to be slaughtered for the sake of selfish personal interests. The Phalangist leadership is committed to defending its supporters and their property, as it is committed to defending all Lebanese. [end recording]

Phalangist Statement Issued on Daww Assassination

NC2412145390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the Phalangist Party Political Bureau following its meeting in Beirut on 24 December]

[Text] With regard to the security situation, the Phalangist Party has learned to its profound regret that it received a Christmas present in the form of the assassination of Comrade Elie Daww, head of the Phalangist Party's Kafr Shima branch, and the serious wounding of his wife. This assassination comes a short time after the assassination of Comrade Sami Abu-Jawdah, head of the Phalangist Party's branch in al-Zalqa. The party considers that the series of assassinations, explosions, and acts of sabotage directed at Phalangist Party centers in the al-Matn regions requires more than mere statements of denunciation and condemnation. The government must take extraordinary measures to safeguard and consolidate the peace process. These acts indicate that the government itself is being targeted, and that the peace plan is being dealt a blow by those who are disaffected with the peace process, not just with the Phalangist Party.

The Phalangist Party expects the legitimate government to take a stand that will safeguard life, dignity, and freedom, so that the achievements scored by the peace march do not collapse. The Phalangist Party has been patient because of its concern for the legitimate government and its desire to foil the plans of criminals who fish in murky waters to strike at the peace march. The Phalangist Party gives priority to the peace march because it is the path to salvation, which the party will pursue regardless of losses or gains. Accordingly, the Phalangist Party calls on the government to shoulder its responsibilities at once, before it is too late. The party calls for cooperation among all parties to save the peace process. The party has formulated a practical plan and

program to confront all eventualities on all levels. The Phalangist Party Political Bureau calls for a peaceful general strike on Wednesday, 26 January.

With regard to the political situation, the Phalangist Party emphasizes its firm stand in support of a comprehensive democratic peace process. The party has placed all its resources at the disposal of this process, is ready to make any sacrifice required, and will not back down from this decision.

With regard to the formation of a new government, the Phalangist Party asserts its rejection of any government that is not based on the two political and national balances. The party demands in particular that the formation of this government not be translated into a policy of repression, injustice, and hegemony against any of the basic communities in Lebanon. Such a government would threaten the pillars and equations on which Lebanon is based.

Hindering Lebanon's Karami Called 'Fatal Mistake'*JN2512120490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1020 GMT
25 Dec 90*

[Text] Damascus, 25 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH views the new Lebanese Government as a government of national reconciliation and accord that represents all the Lebanese and epitomizes the spirit of the al-Ta'if Agreement.

In a commentary published today, the paper says: The broadbased government formed will be serious in ending all abnormalities and also in its efforts to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory and to activate state institutions to play their roles in the interest of the homeland and citizens.

The paper recalls the statement made by 'Umar Karami before announcing the formation of his government to the effect that its objectives are to disband militias and collect weapons in accordance with the provisions of the al-Ta'if document. The paper says that this clearly shows that various parties are now well aware of the importance of making Lebanon move into a phase of security and stability, because the consummation of the march of salvation and reconciliation would give the legitimate authorities the time to devote its undivided attention to other important issues, foremost among which are dismantling the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and resolving the citizens' outstanding problems that have accumulated over the long years of war.

The paper urges all Lebanese to cooperate with the broad-based government, as this government constitutes an advanced step that will be followed by other steps aimed at enhancing and consecrating the reconciliation process initiated on 13 October.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in Syria will continue to support the fraternal Lebanese, as we always have, in all their measures and moves to bolster the unity of the Lebanese people, enhance Lebanon's territorial integrity, and terminate the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. The paper says that putting any obstacle in the path of the new government would be a fatal mistake because this can never serve the cause of redeeming Lebanon and ending its ordeals. Besides, this can never help enhance the unity of Lebanon—territory and people.

Al-Zu'bi Cables Karami*JN2512142690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[“Text” of cable of congratulations from Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami on the occasion of forming the Lebanese Government]

[Text] On the occasion of forming the Lebanese Government under your premiership, I am pleased to extend to you our sincerest congratulations on the duties assigned to you at this important stage when Lebanon is witnessing a serious move toward a comprehensive national charter, building up institutions, and promoting a national basis that can achieve a unity of efforts and goals for fraternal Lebanon.

Syria, which has vowed to extend continuous support for the Lebanese national march and the legitimate authority, believes that the steps that have been made and the goals that will be achieved will strengthen confidence in a brilliant future for Lebanon. I wish you and the new government every success, and the fraternal Lebanese people further unity, progress, and prosperity.

U.S. 'Protection' of Israeli 'Crimes' Attacked*JN2612113790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 26 Dec 90*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline “They Are Recrucifying Jesus Christ,” the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel has stopped all talk about peace, announcing its continuing revenge against Christ and declaring that Christ's cradle will not be a place of love, peace, and divine guidance. The city of Bethlehem has become a military barracks empty of people except for the soldiers of death which Shamir massed to recrucify Christ and prevent worshippers from reaching their places of worship.

The paper adds: What the occupation troops did during Christmas has no end because it is taking place daily and the whole world sees and hears. Protest is prohibited because those who perpetrate crimes enjoy U.S. protection in particular and Western protection in general.

The paper wonders: Where does the world stand regarding peace? Or is it that peace has various forms and colors under its law? When they crucified the Palestinian Christ, they claimed they had served peace. However, Christ eventually triumphed. Now Christ is rising up again against the same tyrants, but in the person of the children of Palestine whose weapons are stones and determination, and whose strength springs from the will which Christ's land planted in their entity.

The paper concludes: Jerusalem is ours, and it will not be a station for the Zionist filth; Bethlehem is ours, and the Church of Nativity will not be as the rabbis of oppression and aggression want it to be. The march of the intifadah proves the inevitable end.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Rules Out Zahir Shah Return

BK2212121390 Karachi DAWN in English
22 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 21—The Chief of Hezb-e Islami-e Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has called upon all Mujahidin to be vigilant and ready to meet any eventuality.

In an interview with Afghan news agency here on Thursday [20 December] night he urged all Mujahidin forces to prepare themselves for a final blow to the Najib regime.

He said that Mujahidin should concentrate around Kabul and the sensitive military installations of the regime.

The Hezb 'Amir' asserted that Soviet Union and America have reached an agreement to replace Najib with Zahir Shah and install him as head of the interim government in Afghanistan. The other Western-minded parties have also shown willingness in the so-called interims set-up and were looking for a change. But, he said, the return of Zahir Shah in Afghanistan was impossible in view of the strong opposition of Mujahidin.

He was of the view that the organised attacks of Mujahidin have convinced the world that the solution of the Afghan problem was not possible without the consent of Mujahidin.

He disclosed that recently a joint representative of Najib and Zahir Shah had conveyed him (Hekmatyar) a message in which it was said that both Soviet Union and United States have agreed to replace Najib with Zahir Shah for an interim period in which Zahir Shah will be the interim President and will hold elections within a stipulated period after which neither he nor a member of his family will play any role in the Government.

The message further said that Najib and his party would participate in the coming elections. Mr Zahir Shah in the message has vowed, the Hezb chief continued, that he will accept all the conditions of Hezb-e Islami if it accepted Zahir Shah for the temporary period.

Mr Hekmatyar said that his reply to the message was that Najib should quit unconditionally and that his life could be spared only if he surrenders before Mujahidin and tender apology for his past misdeeds as he was responsible for the killing of over 1 million Afghans.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar proposed that an interim government replacing Najib should comprise those people who are acceptable to Mujahidin and who did not hold any key post during the rule of either communists or Zahir Shah.

Such an impartial interim government, he said, should hold elections in Afghanistan within six months and hand over power to the elected members.

Najibullah Invites Willy Brandt's Assistance

LD2512073390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0535 GMT 25 Dec 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 24 [date as received] BAKHTAR—The message of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and chairman of the Watan "Homeland" Party, addressed to Willi Brandt, chairman of Socialist International, was recently handed over in Bonn by Najmuddin Kawyani, deputy chairman of Watan Party to Deengalze, member of the leading board of the German Social Democratic Party.

The message calls on Willi Brandt, distinguished political figure, to take part in putting an end to war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and acceleration of the process of political solution of the Afghan issue.

The expansion of relations between the two parties was the subject of discussion took place between the high-ranking delegation of Watan Party and Deengalze.

According to another report, the Afghan delegation met with Archelar, in charge of Investigation and Development Institute of Fredrich Ostaphtong related to the German Social Democrat Party. Present at the meeting was Dr. Bocher, expert on Afghanistanology.

At the meeting, the Afghan delegation briefed him on the recent developments in the country.

Reciprocally, Archelar talked on the characteristics of the said institution aimed at political solution of international issues as well as providing ground for world cooperation.

Bangladesh

Commission Begins Probing Alleged Ershad Corruption

BK2412155790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] The commission to examine allegations of corruption and abuse of power by former President Ershad, members of his cabinet, officers and employees of government offices, and statutory organizations has started functioning. A press release of the commission issued in Dhaka says any allegation regarding the corrupt practices of the above-mentioned persons should be sent by post or put into complaint box at its office at 33 Minto Road. Persons providing information in this regard will have to mention their names and addresses.

Former Jute Minister Charged With Corruption

BK2512082690 Hong Kong AFP in English
0717 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 25 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have filed two separate corruption charges against a former

minister of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, an official announcement said Tuesday.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau charged retired Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Imam with misappropriation of government funds and misuse of power in connection with losses of millions of dollars from the Adamjee Jute Mills, the world's largest jute plant.

The charges were the first specifically drawn up against any minister or official of Mr. Ershad's government. Mr. Imam, the former jute minister, is in hiding.

Mr. Ershad, 60, who had seized power in a coup in 1982 and stepped down December 6 in response to popular unrest, has been under house arrest with his wife, Roushan Ershad, since December 12 in an affluent Dhaka suburb.

His vice president, deputy prime minister, home minister and a senior official were also arrested and have been given 120 days detention under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974 which authorizes arrest without charges.

A government commission set up to probe allegations of misdeeds by Mr. Ershad and his associates started its work Monday.

Interior, Establishment Officials Replaced

BK2612071090 Hong Kong AFP in English
0526 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 26 (AFP)—Bangladesh's interim government replaced the number-two men in the important interior and establishment ministries, official sources said Wednesday.

"In view of the constitutional requirement of placing (government officials) under the control of the election commission, a substantial number of transfers of such officials will be necessary immediately," sources quoted an official announcement as saying.

The outgoing officials had served under former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who stepped down following public demonstrations last month.

Home Ministry Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed was replaced by M. A. Sayeed. Establishment Ministry Secretary Khandaker Mahmud-e-Rabbani was replaced by Hasinur Rahman.

Major political groups had been demanding the changes, saying that without removing top officials in important ministries the new government would not be able to keep its commitment to the people.

Meanwhile, newly appointed Election Commissioner Justice Aminur Rahman Khan resigned Tuesday on "personal grounds" and was immediately replaced by Justice Syed Mesbahuddin Hussain, an official announcement said.

President Appoints Chief Election Commissioner

BK2412160390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf has been appointed chief election commissioner. This was officially announced in Dhaka this evening. Earlier, the former chief election commissioner, Justice Sultan Hussain Khan, submitted his resignation to the acting president.

Media Asked for Neutral Election Coverage

BK2412140090 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, directed the television and radio to project elections and matters relating to polls on a priority basis in their news and programs. He was presiding over a high-level meeting on the activities of radio and television in Dhaka Monday. He advised the mass media to maintain complete objectivity, neutrality, and balance in their news. The television and radio news and programs should not be biased toward any party, group, or individual.

Veterans Protest Against Jamaat-E-Islami

BK2412160090 Hong Kong AFP in English
1405 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 24 (AFP)—Some 200 veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war Monday demonstrated against a right-wing group Monday saying they should be eliminated from this South Asian country.

They said the Jamaat-E-Islami party and its student wing, the Islami-Chatra-Shibir (ICS), had taken a stand against Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan and were now trying to foil the "hard-earned second independence" won by ousting President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The demonstration by the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Council) came hours after two student leaders died in clashes with ICS activists in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

Also Monday, the Muktiyoddha (Freedom Fighters) Command Council called for banning the activities of the jamaat, terming it a "fascist organization."

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, became independent after a nine-month war of secession in 1971.

Political sources said there were similar demonstrations in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

Meanwhile, the ICS at a press conference here accused the left-wing Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal of perpetrating the violence in Chittagong and reiterated a demand that Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin resign.

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New Sikh Party To Seek Independent Homeland

BK2612030890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 25 (AFP)—Sikhs in the northern Indian state of Punjab have formed a new Sikh political party to fight peacefully for an independent Sikh homeland, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Tuesday.

Baljinder Singh, a spokesman for the new party, was quoted by PTI as saying that his organisation, Shiromani Babbar Akali Dal, was launched as the "traditional Akali (Sikh) parties" had failed "to deliver goods to the Sikh" community.

The Akali Dal, led by former Punjab chief minister Prakash Singh Badal, is the principal moderate Sikh party in Punjab, where a bloody campaign by militant Sikhs for independence has left 3,338 people dead this year.

There is also the Akali Dal Mann group, headed by Simranjit Singh Mann, a former police officer fired for suspected links with Sikh militants.

The Mann group has been increasingly identified as leaning towards the militants fighting for an independent homeland called Khalistan.

Mr. Baljinder Singh told the press in Chandigarh, Punjab's capital, that his party would also campaign for Khalistan, but "our struggle will be based on non-violent means."

Muslims, Hindus Submit Papers on Disputed Shrine

BK2312155890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] and the All India Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee have submitted to the Union Government material evidence in support of their respective claims over the disputed place of worship at Ayodhya. Both sides handed over their documents in the office of the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, in New Delhi today.

The official spokesman said that the government will circulate copies of the documents to the two parties on Wednesday [26 December]. He said both the sides have agreed to send their rejoinders by the 6th of January. Four days later the third round of talks will be held to find an acceptable solution to the issue. According to the joint secretary of the VHP, Mr. Suryakrishan, the Parishad has presented more than 100 pages of historical, archaeological, and other evidence besides some photographs and maps. He said the VHP in a covering letter to the documents also informed the government of its stand for a speedy settlement of the Ayodhya issue.

Mr. Javed Habib of the All India Babri Masjid Action Committee said that they have given 80 documents in six different sets and some photographs covering historical, legal, and religious aspects. He said the committee is serious and sincere to resolve the issue through dialogue

and asked the VHP and others to await the outcome of the next round of talks before deciding on the next course of action.

Muslim Group Questions Government Move on Shrine

BK2512040890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] The Babri Masjid [mosque] Movement Coordination Committee [BMMCC] has questioned the center's move to refer the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue to the Supreme Court. In a statement in New Delhi, the convener of the BMMCC, Mr. Shahabuddin, said that as the issue is pending before the special bench of the Allahabad High Court, the committee fails to comprehend the purpose of this exercise. He said this can be acceptable to the BMMCC subject to the fulfillment of three conditions. First, the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council] commits itself to accept the finding of the commission of inquiry or the Supreme Court as well as the final judicial verdict. Second, the VHP should suspend all agitations, and third, a central law should be enacted to protect the status of all places of worship as on the 15th of August 1947.

Naxalites Release BJP Legislator, 10 Others

BK2412091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Jaipal, the BJP [Bharatiya Janta Party] MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] from Barkhal and 10 others have been released by the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas]. The MLA was released in Warangal early this morning. At present, 10 persons in Warangal District and four persons in Nalgonda District are still being held as hostages by the Naxalites.

17 Involved in 'Terrorism' Released on Parole

BK2512160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has released 17 more persons on parole who were arrested in connection with the terrorist activities. The state screening committee earlier reviewed their cases at a meeting in Srinagar yesterday.

Meanwhile, four more Pakistan-trained militants have surrendered to the security forces in Kashmir valley. In the continued drive against the militants, the security forces have recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition in the 5-km border belt in Kupwara and Baramulla Districts. Five subversives have also been arrested. Elsewhere, five persons, including a hardcore terrorist, were killed in separate incidents.

Iran

Official Discusses U.S. 'Goal' Throughout Gulf

LD2412193390 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—A senior Iranian official today predicted that the possibility of war breaking out in the region was high, cautioning that the U.S. goal was not confined to driving Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

"Iran is one of the targets of U.S. expedition in the Persian Gulf but we are not a bite to be swallowed easily," Mohammad Javad Larijani said at a question-and-answer session with Tehran University students.

"The U.S. objective is wider in scope than restoring the exiled Kuwaiti dynasty Al-Sabah to Kuwait. The Americans are not noble enough to be satisfied with this," said Larijani who is advisor to the foreign minister.

Among other aims of the U.S. is to establish a new domineering system that could put the region's oil resources at its disposal, to control Europe and other important regions and check the spread of the Islamic revolution and of other Islamic movements, he said.

Dismissing a U.S. claim that it has deployed between 300,000 and 400,000 forces in the region, Larijani said in his opinion the real figure was one million troops along with 3,000 warplanes and 300 [as received].

Larijani noted it was very unlikely that an attack on Iraq would take less than one month or more than six months. He also said it was not clear whether the war would be in the interest of the Americans, and noted "There are many obstacles in the way of the U.S. goals the most important of which being the awakening of the Muslim world."

"In view of such awakening, the U.S. chance for establishment of a domineering system is not very high and if Muslims fulfill their duties this chance will be equal to zero," he said.

However, Larijani cautioned that before, during and after the war, Iran would stand to incur some losses.

Nowadays, he said, the region has become insecure from economic viewpoints, mainly because of the massing of over one million American troops.

"During the war, Muslims would be killed and Islamic lands would be demolished... there are some dangers to us but the brave nation of Iran knows how to defend its own interests. The country's officials have taken precautionary measures vis-a-vis the issue," he said.

Terming the U.S. and Iraq as "two aggressive powers", he said "we are not worried about a confrontation between these two small and big aggressor powers but rather we are concerned about the interests of the region and our country."

"The U.S. era will have been over by the end of the current century and with its domination diminishing, the horn of that country will be broken," he pointed out.

In response to a question, Larijani dismissed as "incorrect" the notion that Iranian officials had been aware in advance of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait.

Opposing any geographical change in the region, Larijani said "We are vehemently opposed to any change in the map of the region. Moreover, the U.S. will not achieve its goals through such a change because Islam which is not limited to any frontier will be a threat to U.S. interests."

Larijani also denied Washington's use of Iran's Persian Gulf islands of larger and smaller Tonb [place-name as received] as well as the flights of American helicopters through Iranian airspace during the Persian Gulf crisis.

"They (the Americans) have never asked us for anything. No one dares to encroach upon even a single inch of Iranian soil. Otherwise, he will receive such a response that he will feel sorry. We will defend our (territorial) water, soil and airspace," he made it clear.

Elsewhere, Larijani said the time for "incompetent and epicure" sheiks to rule in the region has come to an end and that Washington has trained "a new generation of princes and princesses" whom it will dispatch to the region.

He also ruled out the idea of the formation of an independent force by Iran against the Zionist regime, saying "The world of Islam should have a joint front and as a matter of fact Iran will be a pioneer on this path. We are ready for martyrdom in this way."

Asked whether Israel's withdrawal from occupied lands was a condition set by Iraq for its pull-out from Kuwait, he replied "This is not true at all. In my opinion, Israel is now in contact with the Iraqi regime."

"Iraq may play a role in expelling the Palestinians from occupied lands and in suppressing them," he feared.

On the British Government's double standard policy towards the detained Iranian student Mehrdad Kokabi and its simultaneous expression of friendship with Iran, Larijani explained "In my opinion, Britain under Mrs. Thatcher and thereafter has clearly retreated in the face of Iran's decisive stance.

"And after the Supreme National Security Council decided that this was what the majlis (parliament) expected, the Foreign Ministry was assigned to renew diplomatic relations between the two countries."

More on the same subject, Larijani said "The British are not equivocating. They have retreated vis-a-vis the firm ruling of the Majlis and his eminence the imam, though their behavior towards Iranian students is not appropriate. The government and the Foreign Ministry have seriously dealt with the issue."

The foreign minister's adviser, however, expressed hope that Khomeini would be freed and repatriated to Iran in the near future.

Asked whether his opposition to Iran's stance towards apostate Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel 'THE SATANIC VERSES' accounted for his dismissal from the post of deputy foreign minister, Larijani replied:

"As to my resignation, I should say I resigned as the deputy foreign minister and I am now an advisor. This had nothing to do with his eminence the imam's ruling (death sentence on Salman Rushdie)."

He described the late Imam Khomeini's fatwa (religious ruling) as a "historical and almost miraculous" ruling and noted that he has written a detailed book on the subject that would be published soon.

Responding to a question on his role in Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Larijani explained "My view on the resolution was that while fighting we should hold the flag of peace in our hands and should take peace initiatives. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He said originally the resolution was different from the present one and that the United Nations intended to condemn Iran as a country rejecting peace overtures.

"We drew up a plan and decided, instead of rejecting the resolution, to modify its contents if they were good. We offered the plan to Ayatollah Khamene'i and Mr. Rafsanjani...the outline of the plan was presented to his eminence the imam and he singled out the parts of the resolution that should be modified.

"In this resolution, Iran's demands such as the punishment of the aggressor party has been included. And this is one of Iran's noticeable victories. I played a small role in this respect."

Official Urges 'Proper Stand' on Gulf Crisis

LD2612093790 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0740 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Remarks by "Brother Salimi, an official of the Political Bureau of the Guard Corps," on nation's role in the Gulf crisis; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Any stand by Iran has a determining role in the Persian Gulf. The Iraqis realize that any stand taken by Iran, in view of its long borders with that country, can play a determining role in relations between Iraq and the West. If the Iraqis were to feel secure along their common borders with Iran, they would confront the West differently; and if they were to feel insecure, they would have to take an important factor into consideration, which is highly significant to them. Amid this, Iran adopted an independent stand which serves the country's interests. Some might think that, in view of the proposals given to Iran, in the short-term Iran's interests

would be better served if it were to adopt a different stand. Our long-term interests, however, dictate that we should eliminate the existing tension between us and Iraq. Naturally, not everyone likes this independent stand. For instance the West, the U.S. Army, and the United States itself are not at all pleased with Iran's stand.

At a time when the United States has sent a large force to the region and is trying to win public opinion, it is not at all happy with Iran's stand. Therefore, they sent a lot of messages to the effect that if Iran were to attack Iraq and raise the issue of recovering its rights, the West would not only offer its political support but would also not refrain from providing any aid in arms and economic assistance that Iran might require. But if we were to take the experience of the past U.S.-Iraqi ties as an example of their political games today, then our answer should naturally remain negative. Under the present circumstances, the country's long-term interests lie in pursuing our peace talks with Iraq. Therefore, no positive answer was given to such invitations. Naturally, this disappointed the West, and the West showed its anger by continuing such moves as reimposing economic sanctions and keeping Iran's assets frozen. Another example of this anger was the propaganda sensation of human rights. None of these pressures, however, can hide the fact that our stand is a determining factor, and we can pursue a logical and proper stand in the Persian Gulf which can serve the country's interests. We should act in such a way that if the crisis were to end by diplomatic settlement, then the United States would not provoke Iraq against us again.

Commentary Evaluates Lebanese Cabinet's Formation

LD2512160290 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1110 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Four days after taking up the post of the premiership, and following a lengthy session with that country's president Elias Hrawi, Lebanese Prime Minister Umar Karami late last night announced the names of his 30-man cabinet.

The announcement of the composition of the new cabinet, considered a broad-based cabinet, was apparently done without the members' total coordination and initial consent; hence, a number of Lebanon's political-military groups have described it as an imposed cabinet. In this cabinet, which for the first time in Lebanese history comprises an equal number of Muslim and Christian ministers, seven of the militia leaders were designated ministers of state. Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze Socialist Progressive Party; Samir Ja'ja, ringleader of the Christian Maronite Militia; and Elie Hobeika, head of the pro-Syrian Christian Militia and Ja'ja's rival, are among these seven ministers of state. Umar Karami described the objective behind his action as a means of paving the

way for the disarmament and dissolution of the militia groups, claiming that the dissolution of these groups would be impossible without the participation of the leaders of the armed groups in the Lebanese cabinet.

The Lebanese Hezbollah is the only militia group which is not represented in the cabinet. A few days ago, the leaders of Hezbollah officially announced their nonparticipation in the new cabinet, terming as their most important reason their opposition to the Ta'if Agreement. This is at a time when Umar Karami has termed the Ta'if Agreement the most important mission of his cabinet. The Lebanese Phalangist Party, led by George Sa'adah, and the Maronite Christian Militias, led by Samir Ja'ja, also described the present cabinet as disproportionate, saying they will abstain from joining Umar Karami's cabinet. These groups already stated their opposition to the formation of a broad-based cabinet, since they saw the balance of power in a more limited cabinet as tipping in favor of the Christian Maronite groups, for which reason they had supported the continuation of the premiership of Salim al-Huss who favored formation of a cabinet with fewer members, while Syria considered a role for the entire Muslim and Christian militias in the government, thereby supporting the premiership of Umar Karami. In any case, Umar Karami described his cabinet as a cabinet of national reconciliation, declaring the attainment of peace in Lebanon will only be possible through the reshuffling of responsibilities in managing the country within the framework of the Ta'if Agreement.

In the opinion of political analysts, Lebanon, especially after successfully passing through the past two stages—that is to say, the toppling of Michele 'Awn, the rebel commander of Lebanon, and the establishment of a great Beirut free from weapons and unofficial armed factions—is currently going through a sensitive stage. These analysts feel that, even though the formation of a broad-based cabinet could play an effective role in terms of the participation of all factions in the proper management of that country and its reconstruction, nevertheless the lack of common ideological beliefs among the cabinet members and the presence of nonexperienced characters in its executive affairs has, more than ever, rendered the cabinet a political and a nonexecutive appearance. The brief experience of the new prime minister in running that country's executive affairs and the significance and difficulty involved in managing the veteran leaders of the parties and militia groups are among the factors which will place stumbling blocks in the way of the new cabinet's mission.

Salman Rushdie Death Sentence Remains Intact

*LD2612120990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Dec 90*

[Text] Following news of attempts by Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", to exonerate himself of insults against the great prophet of Islam, peace be on him and his

scion, and other Islamic sanctities, the Office of the Exalted Leader today issued the following statement:

In the name of the great God. With regard to attempts by the apostate Salman Rushdie to exonerate himself for insults committed against the great Prophet of Islam—peace be on him and his scion—and other Islamic sanctities in the insulting book "The Satanic Verses," the office of the great leader, in reply to questions submitted by Muslims concerning that issue, announces that his eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni—may his shadow lengthen, the great leader of the Islamic revolution—said the historic and unalterable verdict of his eminence the imam—may he be admitted to God's paradise—against the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," and the commitment of Muslims throughout the world to implement the said Islamic verdict, are showing their first fruits at Islam's confrontation of world infidelity.

Western arrogance, which decided to assault the sanctities of one billion world Muslims as preparation for the humiliation of Muslims and the annihilation of their incentives for Islamic uprising in the world, has now been forced into a disgraceful and step by step retreat. God willing, through the steadfastness of the world's Muslims, henceforth nobody will dare to insult the great prophet of Islam—peace be on him and his scion—and Islamic sanctities.

The verdict of Islam on the author of the book, "The Satanic Verses," as his eminence the imam—may he be admitted to God's paradise—has already stated, will stay as it was even though he may repent and become the most pious person of the age. Such futile attempts, aided and abetted by a some seemingly Muslim individuals, shall not alter that divine verdict.

Death Sentence 'Irrevocable'

*LD2512084690 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT
25 Dec 90*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—The late Imam Khomeyni's edict on the British apostate Salman Rushdie sentencing him to death is irreversible even if he repents, said an Iranian daily Tuesday.

The editorial in the morning daily 'ABRAR' commented on efforts by the West, Britain in particular, to cool down the world Muslims' sentiments against Rushdie's blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses". Among such efforts are the announcement that the novel will neither be published in paperback nor be translated to other languages and that Rushdie has met with several British Muslim leaders. No British Muslim leader, however, could confirm any such meeting with Rushdie.

The daily said that these and other propaganda maneuvers by the British Government aim at bringing Rushdie out of isolation and making the Muslims to neglect the verdict.

But, ABRAR stressed, "Imam Khomeyni's historical edict on Rushdie is irrevocable even if he (Rushdie) repents."

November 1988, Mr. Gayoom, 53, has come under intense pressure to speed up promised reforms to the one-party political system.

Maldives

Dissidents Accused of SAARC Sabotage Plot

BK2612102290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT
26 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 26 (AFP)—Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has accused dissidents in the Indian Ocean atoll state of attempting to blow up a conference hall last month where the heads of seven South Asian nations were due to meet.

Security forces foiled the attempt before the leaders assembled in the capital, Male, for the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Maldives High Commission here said in a statement Wednesday.

It said several attempts were made by the dissidents to sabotage the November 21-23 summit.

"These persons attempted to fix an explosive device in the special conference hall which was built for the summit in order to sabotage the important event," the statement said.

It said the national security personnel thwarted "these attempts" even though a subsequent explosion slightly damaged "a launch dry-docked in Male."

The statement came two weeks after the government introduced tough anti-terrorism legislation to curb rising militancy in the Moslem archipelago lying some 650 kilometers (400 miles) southwest of Sri Lanka.

The new law with retrospective effect makes capital punishment mandatory for any militant act which results in the death of any person.

Analysts here believe that the sabotage claim was to justify the arrests of several Maldivians, including journalists, suspected of "subversion" days before the SAARC summit.

Wednesday's statement quoted Mr. Gayoom as telling a meeting of government officials that several people were arrested on charges of "subversion and terrorism" and that investigations were nearing completion.

"They will be tried by the court as soon as these investigations are over," Mr. Gayoom said.

The SAARC conference, which brought together leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, was concluded without incident.

Since an unsuccessful coup bid by Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries led by a Maldivian businessman in

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Election Commission Calls on Parties To Register

BK2412114490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT
24 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 24 (AFP)—Nepal's election commission called Monday on all political parties and groups seeking to run in April's scheduled general elections to register within a month.

The commission said in a statement that it would withhold recognition from parties or groups formed along religious, caste or tribal lines or seeking to sow discontent. Any party disavowing the norms of Nepal's constitutional democracy would also be refused recognition.

The panel said all parties should register within 30 days, providing their organizational bylaws and the names and addresses of executive committee members.

Parties which bar citizens from becoming members on the basis of religion, caste, tribe, language or sex may also be barred from taking part in the elections.

Under the new constitution proclaimed by King Birendra on November 9, at least five per cent of the total number of candidates contesting from any party must be women.

The new constitution was promulgated after an interim government was formed in April following a 10-week protest campaign led to the downfall of the 30-year partyless Panchayat system.

18 Dec Civil Servants Strike Lasts 5 Hours

BK1812134190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT
18 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 18 (AFP)—Government employees observed a five-hour strike Tuesday to press demands for higher wages and better benefits, the fifth and longest such action since Friday when the strike series began.

At Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB, Nepal's central bank), strikers constrained the deputy governor and all department heads to stay in their offices to discuss the strikers' demands, which include danger pay, transport facilities and educational and housing allowances.

Bank Governor H.S. Tripathi managed to slip out of the office before the detention began, a spokesman of the bank's employee strike committee said.

More than 3,000 rank-and-file NRB employees are involved in the strike, and while all NRB branches were open Tuesday, operations were curtailed.

All together, more than 100,000 civil servants within and outside Kathmandu have joined the strike, an organizing committee spokesman said.

The civil servants' strike began with a two-hour work stoppage on Friday, followed by a three-hour strike on Sunday and a four-hour work stoppage Monday. It was set to last the entire working day Wednesday and continue Thursday.

The Ministry of General Administration Tuesday called for discipline among the strikers, appealing to their sense of patriotism.

In a press release the ministry reminded employees of their pledge to observe discipline when they registered with the association of civil servants. "Disregarding that point and engaging in protest activities such as pen-down and strike would constitute an action against the code of the association," the statement said.

A ministry spokesman said the government would try to meet the demands but could not take on a "heavy financial burden at a time when the government is facing difficulty in providing relief to the people because of the weak economy."

Pakistan

Oakley Remarks on Nuclear Program Cited

BK2412092390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley has said Pakistan's nuclear program should not be made an issue of controversy between Pakistan and the United States. It should be solved at a regional level. Talking to Qazi Hussain Ahmad, amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, in Islamabad yesterday, Ambassador Oakley said if India had acquired nuclear capability, then Pakistan also had the right to do so for its own defense. [sentence as heard] He stressed the need, however, to reduce tension in the region and said both Pakistan and India should take effective steps to mitigate the hostile situation.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed asked the United States to use its influence to end atrocities perpetrated on the Indian Muslims by Hindus and support the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Later, on a meet the press program in Rawalpindi, the amir of Jamaat-i-Islami said that the Kashmiri people's struggle is soon destined for victory and asked India to review its policy and give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Relations With Iran To Be Reviewed

BK2512111190 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Dec 90
p 1

[Text] Lahore, Dec 24—Demanding a ban on the Anjuman Sipah Sahaba [ASS, Armed Wing of Pro-Saudi Sunni Organization] for its alleged involvement in the assassination of Mr Sadiq Ganji, Iran declared here on Monday that if Pakistan failed to do so and investigate the case to its full satisfaction, not only the Pakistan-Iran relations would be adversely affected but even Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposed visit to Iran could be reviewed.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said at a news conference here on Monday that the elements responsible for Mr Ganji's murder wanted to poison Pakistan-Iran relations and start a civil war in Pakistan.

At the outset, the visiting dignitary only said the people behind Mr Ganji's murder and their backers were not a secret for Iran. However, in the subsequent question-answer session he held ASS responsible for the act. The involvement of any foreign power, he said, would be announced after thorough investigation.

Iranian Government was under tremendous pressure by its people after Mr Ganji's assassination and better ties with Pakistan could not be expected till the matter was resolved to Iran's satisfaction, Dr Besharati said through an interpreter.

Replying to a question, he said during his meetings with the President and the Prime Minister he had gathered the impression that investigation was being conducted on right lines and it was making progress.

However, Iran's Ambassador Javed Mansouri told DAWN after the press conference that Pakistan Government had not informed the delegation about the progress in the investigation or the people arrested in the case. Also, he said, both the President and the Prime Minister did not react to the demand to ban the ASS.

Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati said the ASS was an agent of "Wahabiyyet" [Pro-Saudi Sunnism] in Pakistan which opposed the Islamic revolution in Iran from the very first day. No other religious group in Pakistan had dared say anything against Shiaism except the ASS and Iran could not tolerate this organisation under any circumstances, he declared.

He denied that Iran had sent any team for investigation of this case. His delegation, he said, had come only to apprise the Government of Pakistan of the sentiments of the Government and the people of Iran on the tragic incident.

Dr. Besharati said if Iran was satisfied with the progress in investigation, then there was no question of the bilateral relations being affected.

Replying to a question about the Gulf situation, he said from the quality of weaponry and the magnitude of troops gathered there one got the impression that the allied forces were "thinking of doing something", a reference to the possibility of war. However, he hoped Iraq would not be attacked before Jan 15, the deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iraq to pull out its troops.

He said in case of a conflict, Iran would remain neutral. "Iran, in the eventuality of a conflict, does not intend to cooperate or side with any party", Dr. Besharati said.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Landmine Blast Kills 14 Soldiers 24 Dec

BK2412100490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0835 GMT 24 Dec 90

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 24 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Fourteen soldiers were killed, when LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists ambushed and blew up an Army ambulance truck in the north central province this morning, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said three women civilian's making their way on foot were also killed in the blast.

Five soldiers were reported (?missing) the sources said.

Most of the victims in the attack were sick and injured soldiers being transferred from the Diyattawewa Army detachment to the area's main hospital in Horowupotana, they said. The area was muddy because of heavy rains and the vehicle may have been moving slowly thus becoming an easy target for the terrorists, the sources said. In another incident, a soldier was electrocuted in the northern district of Vavuniya, yesterday. Meanwhile, security forces destroyed a LTTE bunker and killed two terrorists in Tellipalai in Jaffna.

Reportage on LTTE Casualties 22-25 Dec

Wijeratne Gives Briefing

BK2212120490 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The security forces have killed 32 LTTE terrorists. They also destroyed five boats in the Eastern Province. A jeep, mortar, bomb, land mine, including a 50-kilo [gram] land mine, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the Batticaloa south area. The STF [Special Task Force] has killed five terrorists and taken over two AK-47 rifles, grenades, 109 rounds of ammunition, cyanide capsules, explosives and an exploder. This was stated by Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne when he

briefed newsmen on the situation in the north and the east. The news briefing was held at the parliamentary complex last morning.

The minister told newsmen that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had provoked the forces by causing harm to the lives of Major Lucky Wijeratne and SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Richard Wijesekara. As the result of operations now being launched in all fronts against the terrorists. [sentence as heard] He said there were such activities in the Batticaloa area. Several LTTE safe houses, including that of [LTTE leader] Reagan, have been destroyed by the Air Force to clear the remnants of the LTTE. Brigadier T. Paranadhana is now the new commander of Trincomalee.

Responding to a question, the minister said the curfew now in force in Batticaloa, Amparai, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu has been extended mainly to continue with the operations. Associated with the minister at the news conference were Minister of Industries, Science, and Technology Ranil Wickremasinghe; State Minister for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; Secretary to the Ministry of Defense General Cyril Ranatunge; and State [as heard] Secretary to the State Ministry to Defense Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando.

115 Killed in 'Tiger Hunt'

BK2612081690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0540 GMT 26 Dec 90

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—One hundred and fifteen LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed in 'Operation Tiger Hunt' now on in the eastern province.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the relentless hunt for the Tigers by Sri Lankan Government troops battling in flooded areas was now being conducted south of Batticaloa stretching from Kokkadichcholai, Mandur, and Palugam to Sorikalmunai and onto Ampara.

The sources said LTTE cadres had submerged themselves in the flood water between bulrushes with plastic tubes to breathe through. But, they had been captured by naval frogmen.

Meanwhile, the director of social services told LANKAPUVATH that there were 40,000 flood refugees and they were receiving food parcels channelled through the International Committee for Red Cross.

Official sources said the northeast monsoon rains had inundated the paddy fields in Samanthurai, Akkarai-pattu, Panama, Tirukovil and several other areas.

Many tanks had overflowed their banks and inundated the rice fields. They included the Senanayake Samudra, Konduwattuwan, Hinidurawa, Navagiri, and several other tanks.

Morawewa Area Cleared

BK2312101790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0930 GMT 23 Dec 90

["OANAfool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Eastern Command of the Sri Lankan Security Forces under Major General Gerry Silva has launched an all out offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and have killed at least 100 of them in the last 24 hours.

Official sources said that the Morawewa area in Trincomalee District was being completely cleared of LTTE terrorists. Ground forces supported by air cover had killed at least 50 terrorists.

In other areas in the Eastern Province 50 more terrorists including four boat loads of them trying to escape have been gunned down by G5 helicopter fire.

The sources said that all measures have been taken to close in on the terrorists including Prabakaran and Mahattaya.